

Whitehall fears collapse of negotiations on Rhodesia

Fears are growing in Whitehall that the Rhodesia conference cannot resume in Geneva on January 17 as planned, if indeed it can be resumed at all. The principal cause of this despondency is the resistance of Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, to British efforts to provide the basis for a settlement. In Mozambique, Mr Ivor Richard had constructive talks with President Machel.

Depressing reports from Mr Richard

By David Spenser, Diplomatic Correspondent
As Mr Crossland, the Foreign Secretary, and his advisers study the telegrams which Mr Ivor Richard is sending back from his African "stint", so fears are growing in Whitehall that the long and arduous effort, which has made to reach a settlement in Rhodesia is about to run into the sand.
Despite Mr Richard's friendly reception in Mozambique yesterday, it is now accepted that there is virtually no chance of the Geneva conference reconvening by the target date of January 17. Mr Richard is the conference chairman.
Worse, it is beginning to look extremely doubtful if the conference will resume at all—at least in its present form. The most likely course is a period of marking time, until the new American Administration has had time to think about its African policy.
The main reason for gloom is the continued obduracy of Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister. It is being reluctantly conceded in Whitehall that whatever Mr Smith seemed to have agreed in his historic broadcast of last September—when he accepted the "four principles" of the Lancaster House agreement—has since changed his mind. Mr Richard's report on his latest meeting with Mr Smith in Salisbury was evidently most depressing.
All hope has not been given up, however. The crucial event is the meeting in Harare, the "front-line" African presidents in Lusaka this weekend. If they give their support to the new British plan—which calls for a British presence to "hold the ring" during the interim period—then there is a distinct chance that the Geneva



Mr Jenkins speaking to reporters before yesterday's meeting in Brussels, at which the sharing out of European Commission jobs was discussed.

EEC team decides who does what

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Jan 6
The new European Commission, under the presidency of Mr Roy Jenkins, began its inaugural meeting here today with one item only on the agenda—the sharing out of the jobs which its 13 members are going to do over the next four years.
Before the commission went into its deliberations, Mr Jenkins read out a brief statement in which he said that the aim of himself and his colleagues "must be to improve the lot of the ordinary citizen throughout the Community, and to make him or her feel that Europe is becoming a better place to live in."
The EEC had also to "combat the growing divergences in the economies of our member states—not by weakening the strong, but by strengthening the weak," he said. "It is our duty to the treaty and courage" shown by the previous Com-

mission under the presidency of M François-Xavier Ortoli in defending "the still half-built citadel of European unity through a period of exceptional economic strain".
These civilities completed, the new Commission retired to get down to the serious business of the day after Mr Jenkins had attended some European parties by declining a request from a Belgian television crew to record his statement in French, still the unofficial lingua franca of the Community.
Hard bargaining was expected over the allocation of portfolios within the Commission, which acts as the guardian of the Rome Treaty and drafts policy proposals for consideration and eventual decision by the Council of Ministers, the body representing the governments of the Nine.
Although Mr Jenkins has a guiding role in the portfolio allocation, the final decision on who gets which job is determined in each case by a majority vote of the assembled commissioners. The president's

Basis of settlement reached on earlier retirement from pits

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor
The long-standing dispute over early retirement for miners looked close to solution last night when union negotiators and the National Coal Board agreed on a deal that would reduce the retirement age to 62 for men with 20 years' service when the income policy permits.
By 13 votes to 12 the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers agreed to continue negotiations on that basis. Even the militants agree that a settlement along those lines is likely to be acceptable. The cost will probably be between £50m and £100m a year; that has yet to be agreed within the union and the coal board. Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has said that no money is available to pay for early retirement.
Earlier, the prospects of a settlement had appeared to recede when the miners' executive voted, again by 13 to 12, and with one abstention, to reject the board's offer.
The scheme was finally met with approval excludes craftsmen and workshop staffs, and concentrates on miners whose working life is spent underground. Workers aged 62 will

Manifesto challenge by Prague dissidents

From Dan van der Var, Bonn, Jan 6
The first sign of active liberal dissent in Czechoslovakia since the "Prague Spring" and the ensuing Soviet invasion of 1968 has come to light in the form of a remarkable document smuggled into West Germany.
It is a manifesto denouncing the suppression of human rights in Czechoslovakia and announcing the formation of a broadly based informal association called "Charter 77" to press for their restoration.
Attached is a list of 240 signatories whose names constitute the flower of the Czechoslovak intelligentsia, including many who suffered grievously for supporting the short-lived attempt of the Dubcek regime to lend a human face to communism in Czechoslovakia.
The document was distributed among representatives of leading Western newspapers. The immediate source does not wish to be named because, as he told me, this would mean his channel of communication would be destroyed. So would the source's reputation if his assertion that the document is genuine proves incorrect.
Confirmation should not be long in coming, however, if the source is right. Three spokesmen for the signatories are due to produce the manifesto in Prague tomorrow, which accounts for the timing of its distribution to certain Western correspondents.
The three spokesmen, named at the end of the manifesto as entrusted with speaking for all the signatories, are Dr Jiri Hajek, Foreign Minister in Mr Dubcek's time, Mr Vaclav Havel, a prominent playwright and Professor Jan Patočka, a philosopher barred from publishing in Czechoslovakia.
The manifesto starts with the fact that the two United Nations conventions, on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights, drawn up in 1968, came into force last year and were officially gazetted in Czechoslovakia at that time as applying there.
References are also made to the United Nations general declaration of human rights and the final act of the Helsinki conference, which committed the participating states, including Czechoslovakia, to show more concern for human rights.

Rebels set Britons free and collect no ransom

By Diana Geddes
The British family held by Ethiopian guerrillas since May, have been released unconditionally, the Foreign Office announced yesterday. No part of the ransom demanded by the guerrillas, said by press reports to amount to \$1m (£590,000)—was paid.
Mr Lindsay Tyler, aged 33, a veterinary surgeon working on a British Ministry of Overseas Development aid project in Ethiopia, his wife Stephanie, aged 32, and their two children, Robert, aged seven, and Sarah (Sally), aged five, were taken to Port Sudan by car on Wednesday, and on to the British Embassy in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, yesterday.
Arrangements will be made to fly the Tylers home as soon as possible after a medical examination if that is needed. The family were reported to be looking healthy and happy on their arrival in Khartoum.
Negotiations with the guerrillas, members of the Marxist-Leninist Tigre Popular Liberation Front, conducted through the Sudanese Government, had helped in securing the family's release was invaluable. The efforts of President Nimeiry were particularly appreciated.
The guerrillas were always on the move and difficult to contact, but the Sudanese officials had succeeded in negotiating with them, the Foreign Office said. No direct contact was made by British officials, and at no time was the ransom demand even touched upon. It is British policy never to pay ransoms for British subjects.
Speaking to Reuters in Khartoum yesterday, Mr Tyler said they were all "in good health and very glad to be out". They had been treated well physically and even received letters and Christmas cards, "but of course" he said.
Continued on page 4, col 5

CBI wants rate of inflation cut to 5 pc next year

The Confederation of British Industry wants inflation to fall to an annual rate of 5 per cent by the middle of 1978. This is the priority of a manifesto, *Programme for Action*, issued yesterday. The document calls for reform of the way pay levels are determined and for more cuts in public spending. It also spells out the situation to expected proposals in the Bullock Committee on industrial democracy. Page 15

Cable and Wireless pay revolt by directors ends

Five executive directors of the state-owned Cable and Wireless, who had refused reelection to the board until demands for higher salaries were met, have ended their revolt. Settlements by the organisation and the Department of Transport did not reveal whether the salaries were to be raised, but said there was to be "consideration of certain proposals". Page 15

Slater 'incentive'

James Slater set up a Singapore company as an incentive to executives not to become involved in personal stock market dealings, according to an alleged statement by Mr Slater read at Honorary Road Magistrates' Court, London. It was read by counsel for the Singapore Government, which is seeking his extradition. Page 2

'Arms lead' challenge

The United States Joint Chiefs of Staff were challenged to say whether they agreed with estimates that Russia has military superiority over the United States. The challenge came from Senator Proxmire, a member of the defence appropriations subcommittee, who sent a questionnaire to General George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Page 4

England two up

England went two up in the series after winning the second Test match in Calcutta by 10 wickets. India, after brief resistance from their talented batsmen, were all out for 181 in their second innings. John Woodcock, page 7

Death and injury in motorway fog

Two men died and nearly a score were injured as fog and ice gripped motorways in north-west England. The police again criticised drivers who refused to adjust their driving to the conditions. Overhead lighting is to be installed at one of the danger spots, the Irwell valley stretch of the M 62 near Manchester, later this year. Page 3

Law change delayed

Government action to change the law on compensation for personal injury, property damage or losses caused by defective products will be delayed because of a muddle over a European Community directive on the subject. It clashes with a draft European convention which is open for ratification by Council of Europe members. Page 3

Carrillo poll plans

Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish Communist leader, has outlined to *The Times* his party's electoral strategy. He seemed confident that the Communists would take part in the general election. He indicated that the party would not form an alliance with the Socialists for the Lower House poll but there could be a wider alliance for the Upper House election. Page 4

'Arrogant' Fulham

Fulham's refusal to give an undertaking that George Best will complete the current football season before returning to the United States has led to the club being accused by Mr Alan Hardaker, the Football League secretary, of being arrogant over the case of the Northern Ireland player. Norman Fox, page 8

Safety criticism: Fire precautions at a home

where 10 elderly people died on Wednesday, were inadequate, a care assistant alleged. China: Chairman Hua takes on the appearance of a military figurehead as Army control increases. Citizens protection: A new law will protect West Germans from the dangers of having their names and personal information on lists held by official and private organizations. 14

Royal Navy: Four-page Special Report on Britain's senior Service, its capability and striking power

London: Patrick Stewart talks to John Higgins; Michael Church on television; Irving Warrle on a change (Theatre Upstairs) Spect, pages 7 and 8
Cricket: Australia beat Pakistan in second Test, by 348 runs; Tennis: Ash beaten in Australian championship; Golf: six previous winners survive first round of President's "Putter" Racing; Sandown Park and Haydock Park prospects; Motor Racing: preview of 1977 season
Business News, pages 15-20
Stock markets: Fresh demand helped the FT index to rise 3.1 for a close of 387.8

Financial Editor: GEC's restructuring: Holding margins at Allied Breweries: The gutted market prepares for an experiment

Business features: The role of development aid in the North-west is discussed by R. W. Spake; speaker: Kenneth Owen on electronic aids for the deaf and blind; Jonathan R. Laing looks at the progress of America's computer banking "revolution"; Business Diary: Trade unionists look to the TUC for their star speaker
Obituary, page 14
Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Cordingley

US threat to £10m deal with Russia

By Clifford Webb, Midland Industrial Correspondent
Big follow-up contracts for aerospace and motor industry projects may be lost to Britain if American opposition prevents Lucas Industries from completing a £10m deal to supply the Soviet Union with an advanced fuel-control system for the Tu144 ("Concorde") supersonic airliner.
Mr Bernard Scott, the Lucas group chairman, took personal charge of the negotiations more than two years ago. He has made several trips to Moscow to meet senior officials.
United States Defence Department fears that the Lucas fuel system will be fitted to the Backfire swing-wing bomber are viewed sceptically. The system was test-flown in the Concord but was not adopted by the Anglo-French team. That would seem to indicate that western technology has advanced since the Lucas design was evolved.
It was suggested last night that American opposition on security grounds may hide commercial interests. Lucas Aerospace is the largest aircraft component manufacturer in Europe and the only one outside America to offer complete aircraft electrical systems. It has a hand in every European cooperative aircraft project.
Without Lucas the American aircraft industry would have the field free to deal with the Russians, or as it is thought more likely to deny them access to the western technology they need. Western help would enable the Russians to become effective competitors in international civil aviation markets.
Lucas said last night: "We have done all our negotiations in the open and are quite prepared to accept any authorized security ruling. We announced on December 22, when the agreement was signed in London, that it would become effective only when the appropriate ratification had been received."
The ratification is security clearance by British and NATO defense committees who scrutinize the export of sensitive technology to communist countries.
The Tu144 has a Lucas electric generating system and a constant-speed device. The developing Soviet motor industry uses Lucas products made under licence.

Lord Plowden seeks to remove police doubts about complaints board

By a Staff Reporter
Lord Plowden, whose appointment as chairman of the newly formed Police Complaints Board was confirmed yesterday, tried last night to dispel fear among the police forces that their authority would be undermined by the independent body. He said impartiality would be the board's aim.
The deputy chairman will be Sir James Waddell, a former deputy under-secretary at the Home Office. The three other members are Sir Frederick Hayday, a former member of the TUC General Council, Sir George Ogden, former chief executive of Greater Manchester, and Mrs Rosemary Wolff, a member of the Community Relations Commission.
The board was established under the Police Act, 1976. From April it will be able to scrutinize reports of all police investigations into public complaints, numbering 20,000 a year. It can pursue the investigations further, or set up disciplinary tribunals where appropriate. The concept of the board has been dismissed by Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, as "harmful and costly, and without discernible merit."
Lord Plowden last night defended the board. "Its aim is to reassure the public that it is getting a fair assessment of complaints," he said. "In that sense it should act as a support to the police."
He hoped that sanction of police investigations by an independent watchdog would strengthen rather than diminish their authority in the eyes of the public.
"In 99.9 per cent of cases one would not expect to challenge the judgments reached by the police investigations," Lord Plowden said. "They are carried out in an exemplary way in the vast majority of

Murdoch takeover bid stops press

From Peter Stafford, New York, Jan 6
The whole staff of *New York magazine* walked out today in protest against the attempt by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, to take over the company which owns it.
It was press day and the stoppage will at least delay next week's issue. The walkout was a sign of the hardening opposition on the magazine, to the takeover.
The main opposition to Mr Murdoch has come from Mr Clay Felker, the president of the New York Magazine Company. But today Mr Felker appealed to the staff to return immediately, and said he would try to bring out the paper on his own if necessary.
Mr Felker was due to meet Mr Murdoch later today in an attempt to work out an amicable settlement. This is something he refused to do earlier, out of deference to the feelings of his staff. But he was ordered to meet Mr Murdoch by the judge who is handling the court case arising from the takeover.
Mr Murdoch claims to have acquired more than 50 per cent of the stock of the company, which publishes *New York*, *The Village Voice* and *New West*, the last in California.
The hope of the staff is that Mr Murdoch will be dissuaded from pressing his bid further by the bad publicity he has been getting.
Staff opposition and a walk-out like the one today must also make the investment less attractive to Mr Murdoch and his associates, they argue.

Private schools may lose 'efficiency' label

The Department of Education and Science is considering plans to end the practice of giving the formal seal of "recognition as efficient" to independent schools.
The move, reported in *The Times Educational Supplement* today, is being considered for economy reasons and would reduce the burden of work on the department's inspectors.
The department said there was a November meeting with the Independent Schools Joint Committee "to discuss the possibility that it might be necessary to discontinue the arrangements for recognizing independent schools as efficient."
Preliminary discussions had been held but no decision had been made. The committee was assured that there would be an opportunity for interested parties to express their views before a decision.
The plan was described as a disaster by Mr Donald Lindsay, director of the Independent Schools Information Service. This seal is a valuable safeguard for parents.
No decision is likely for about a year, according to Mr F. J. Walesby, secretary of the schools joint committee.

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HOME NEWS

Slater company 'set up as incentive to executives not to deal in Far East stock market'

James Slater set up a company called Spydar Securities for the benefit of some executives to stop them becoming involved in personal market dealings, according to an alleged statement by the financier, read at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

The statement, said to have been made at Bow Street police station, was read by Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, counsel for the Singapore Government, Singapore is seeking the extradition of Mr Slater and Mr Richard Taring, former head of Slater, Walker activities in the Far East.

The alleged statement said Mr Slater agreed to take part in Spydar on Mr Taring's suggestion. It quoted Mr Slater as saying: "There was no motive for me to become involved in a fraudulent scheme. The intention was to give incentives to executives, to make sure they did not deal in the local stock market."

It was a well known Slater, Walker practice to arrange a share scheme for executives, the statement continued. Otherwise personal dealings on the "frantic" Far East stock exchange would have taken their minds off their real jobs.

Mr Slater was alleged to have said that his own participation in the scheme would have been welcomed in some countries as a sign that he was directly concerned with the well being of his companies.

"The apparent suggestion is that I was responsible for the non-disclosure of the scheme to the Haw Par shareholders. I had nothing to do with that," Haw Par was a Singapore company which, for nearly two years, was controlled by Slater, Walker executives.

After Mr Slater's arrival in Hong Kong, the alleged scheme was implemented and Slater was the hands of an employee who was a solicitor, the alleged statement said.

"Therefore," it continued, "I had nothing to do with the implementation of the scheme." However, it was accepted that it might have given rise to a civil claim by Haw Par. "But I emphatically deny that there was any intent to defraud Haw Par," the alleged statement said.

At the beginning of the alleged statement Mr Slater was said to have explained that he was in charge of 19 United Kingdom companies, 17 overseas companies and 400 subsidiaries at the time. Because of the company's complexity it was mentally and physically impossible for him to concern himself with anything but important policy decisions and company structure.

Mr Waterhouse then read a letter which, he said, Mr Slater had sent to one of the Singapore investigators. In it Mr Slater was alleged to have said less than a legislative assembly, and the increasingly divided SLP.

The executive of the Official Unionist Party will meet in Belfast at the end of the month and last night Mr West, the party leader, told me: "I am not in favour, and at present our policy remains to seek for the implementation of the constitution."

Mr Mason found himself involved in a dispute last night over the reporting of terrorist violence by the press and, more particularly, the BBC. According to yesterday's *Daily Mail*, a standing held last year to mark the opening of new BBC studios in Belfast ended in a heated exchange between Mr Mason and BBC executives about the corporation's coverage of the Northern Ireland crisis.

Last night the Belfast branch of the Northern Unionist Party decided unanimously to request the Secretary of State to republish statements attributed to a third man there should be a three-month blackout on the reporting of terrorist violence, and that the BBC was disloyal and supported the rebels, purveyed its propaganda, and refused to accept the advice of the Northern Ireland Office on what news to carry.

Several members of the staff, an ambulance driver and a fireman were also injured. The fireman, Mr Norman Dean, fell down a lift shaft.

Polio confirmed

Polio was confirmed yesterday in a 19-year-old woman farmworker from Royston, Hertfordshire. She was admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, last month when it was thought she was suffering from meningitis.

Supermarkets raise bread prices after union pressure

By Hugh Clayton

Bread prices rose in many shops yesterday as a result of trade union pressure against price cuts. Delivery drivers in the United Road Transport Union fear that new discount rates introduced by the Government this week will threaten their jobs by reducing the number of small shops that sell bread.

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said before the rules were introduced in order that they would ensure that bread would be sold for less than it would otherwise be. Mr Hattersley wanted to counteract the January increase in bread prices by allowing higher discounts between bakers and shopkeepers.

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Journalists dismissed for going on official strike

By Christopher Thomas

Twenty-five members of the National Union of Journalists at Mercury House, a London company that publishes trade and technical journals have been dismissed for going on official strike.

Union officials said yesterday that the Union of Post Office Workers had refused to cross picket lines at Mercury House and had not delivered mail. The TUC printing industries committee was being asked to seek active support from the printing unions.

The strike is the first in connection with a claim under schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act, which aims to

Criticism of fire rules in home where 10 died

Fire precautions at Wensley Lodge old people's home at West Hill, Heston, near Hull, where 10 people died in a fire on Wednesday night, were inadequate, a member of staff said last night.

Mr Brian Pellowe, aged 37, a care assistant who has worked at the home for 11 months, made the allegation after a court inquiry by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Security into the incident had been started. He was on duty until 9 pm on Wednesday.

He said: "I was told not to talk to the press and I shall probably lose my job. But someone has to speak."

"I put 11 of these people to bed, and nine are dead. In my opinion the fire precautions were inadequate. There were no exit doors, no fire blankets, no fire extinguishers, no fire alarm."

Mr Pellowe said there were two fire staff on duty when the alarm was raised, as the 49 residents, some in their eighties and nineties, were going to bed. He said: "Last week a memo came round restricting our overtime. If that had not happened I would have been on duty until 10 pm."

"There would have been two men on duty between nine and 10, when the fire started, instead of one. I left at 9 pm. I checked the building, and there was nothing wrong. But for the overtime restrictions, an extra man on duty could have made all the difference."

Mr Pellowe said the fire started in a bedroom above the boiler room. On Wednesday workers using torches had been repairing the boiler, he said. The boiler room contained a 300-gallon tank of fuel oil.

Mr Michael Wheaton, vice-chairman of Hull's social service committee, said there was no secret about the cut in overtime. He said: "The number of staff on duty when the fire broke out."

The alarm was raised at 9.30 pm by Mr George Pearson, who was taking over from Mr Pellowe. Mr Pearson was not due until 10 pm.

Mr Edward Park, chief of Humber Fire Brigade, said the fire took longer than normal. The fire-fighting appliances in the home were adequate and complied with the code of practice for such premises. They also met the high standards of the county council, he added.

Firemen were searching the debris last night for more possible victims. Nine bodies had been recovered and a tenth could be seen.

Nineteen other residents were injured in the fire. One of them was on the serious list in hospital last night.

A resident who could be accounted for, later telephoned the police to say he was in the village public house.

Several members of the staff, an ambulance driver and a fireman were also injured. The fireman, Mr Norman Dean, fell down a lift shaft.

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Moderator criticizes SNP view of control through national bank

From Ronald Faux

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Professor Thomas Torrance, yesterday joined in the economic arguments over Scottish devolution.

In a speech to Edinburgh Rotarians he expressed concern that, in view of the mismanagement of the British economy, leaders of the Scottish National Party should talk about the need to establish a national bank through which a Scottish assembly would exercise economic control.

"Have we not learnt that the mismanagement of our economic affairs by the British Government goes back ultimately to the nationalization of the Bank of England, which eliminated any independent ground for a critical resistance to the inflationary measures of party political governments?" he asked.

Since the nationalization successive governments had been spending more and more of the gross national income. The present level exceeded three fifths.

At that point the ratio of advancing economic control quickened and with it progressed our life.

"Far from establishing a national bank as the instrument of economic control over our Scottish affairs, what we require is a serious modification of government control of the Bank of England," he said. "Because the Scottish economy is inseparably intertwined with that of the rest of the United Kingdom I cannot see devolution functioning successfully without radical change in the status of the Bank of England."

Something like the German Bundesbank was required, which, while nationalized, retained independence. Only a Bank of England of such a kind could exercise effective critical watch over the economy of Scotland as well as of England and Ireland and obstruct the imposition of inflationary measures by government upon it, as well as allowing the measure of economic freedom which clearly went with a

more harmonious relationship than under the status quo or with devolution.

The party also rejected a suggestion that it would be in the interests of any life office to build up reserves in a currency other than the one in which it was proposed to pay the policy proceeds. It believed that Scottish policyholders would be better served by policies in Scottish pounds and English sterling. Standard Life's extensive operations in Canada followed that procedure without difficulty.

No Scottish government would restrict the investments the life offices might make to the Scottish equity market. It was hoped that they would continue to invest on the London, Frankfurt and New York exchanges.

"One of the beauties of this would be that an appreciating pound Scots would mean that the dollar and the mark, etc. premiums would be considerably less than they are at present with the depressed pound sterling," Mr Crawford said.

Civil Service unions seek inquiry into dispersal of offices from London

By Tim Jones

The Government will come under increasing pressure from the Civil Service unions to hold an independent inquiry into the dispersal of offices, which involves the movement of 31,000 people out of London by the mid-1980s.

That became clear yesterday when a representative of one of the eight unions on the Public Service Association, which public expenditure cuts were to be achieved by the dispersal of all building schemes due to start from last month, with the exception of the buildings for the staff of the Welsh and Scottish assemblies.

According to a document circulating among the unions, the savings will be £27m in 1977-78 and £45m in 1978-79. Mr John Ellis, an assistant secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, who compiled the document, said: "The dispersal will apply to new buildings, occupational services in existing buildings and new hirings, and to the office improvement programme."

That meant that the entire dispersal programme would be deferred for at least 12 months, including the buildings for the dispersal of the Department of Health and Social Security to Blackpool and the Office of Population Censuses and Services to Southampton.

The document makes clear that because of the economies a revised programme covering the whole of the dispersal programme and agreed with the Treasury and the Civil Service Department is to be issued. Mr Ellis says the revised programme is unlikely to be completed until 1985 at the earliest.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the staff side of the Whitley Council, said last night that he would be arguing for a comprehensive review of the entire programme.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (symbols are on advancing edge)

Today

fresh or strong near coasts; max temp 6°C (43°F). Midland, Wales, NW, central fog patches, persisting in places, bright or sunny intervals; wind light or moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F), colder in persistence.

Channel Islands, SW England: Mainly dry, bright spells; wind N or NW, moderate; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Scattered showers near coasts, bright or sunny intervals; wind NW, moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Fife, NW Scotland, Argyll: Occasional showers, wintry on hills; rather cloudy; wind NW, moderate or fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Orkney, Shetland: Rain or sleet showers, cloudy; wind NW, strong, gales in exposed places; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Mainly dry at first, temp near normal but N and E Britain

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MODAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; d, sleet; sn, snow.

Accumulated rain (mm): London 1.2, Birmingham 1.2, Manchester 1.2, Glasgow 1.2, Edinburgh 1.2, Aberdeen 1.2, Newcastle 1.2, Liverpool 1.2, Cardiff 1.2, Belfast 1.2, Dublin 1.2, Cork 1.2, Galway 1.2, Limerick 1.2, Waterford 1.2, Drogheda 1.2, Sligo 1.2, Londonderry 1.2, Inverness 1.2, Perth 1.2, Dundee 1.2, Stirling 1.2, Glasgow 1.2, Edinburgh 1.2, Aberdeen 1.2, Newcastle 1.2, Liverpool 1.2, Cardiff 1.2, Belfast 1.2, Dublin 1.2, Cork 1.2, Galway 1.2, Limerick 1.2, Waterford 1.2, Drogheda 1.2, Sligo 1.2, Londonderry 1.2, Inverness 1.2, Perth 1.2, Dundee 1.2, Stirling 1.2, Glasgow 1.2, Edinburgh 1.2, Aberdeen 1.2, Newcastle 1.2, Liverpool 1.2, Cardiff 1.2, Belfast 1.2, Dublin 1.2, Cork 1.2, Galway 1.2, Limerick 1.2, Waterford 1.2, Drogheda 1.2, Sligo 1.2, Londonderry 1.2, Inverness 1.2, Perth 1.2, Dundee 1.2, Stirling 1.2, Glasgow 1.2, Edinburgh 1.2, Aberdeen 1.2, Newcastle 1.2, Liverpool 1.2, Cardiff 1.2, Belfast 1.2, Dublin 1.2, Cork 1.2, Galway 1.2, Limerick 1.2, Waterford 1.2, 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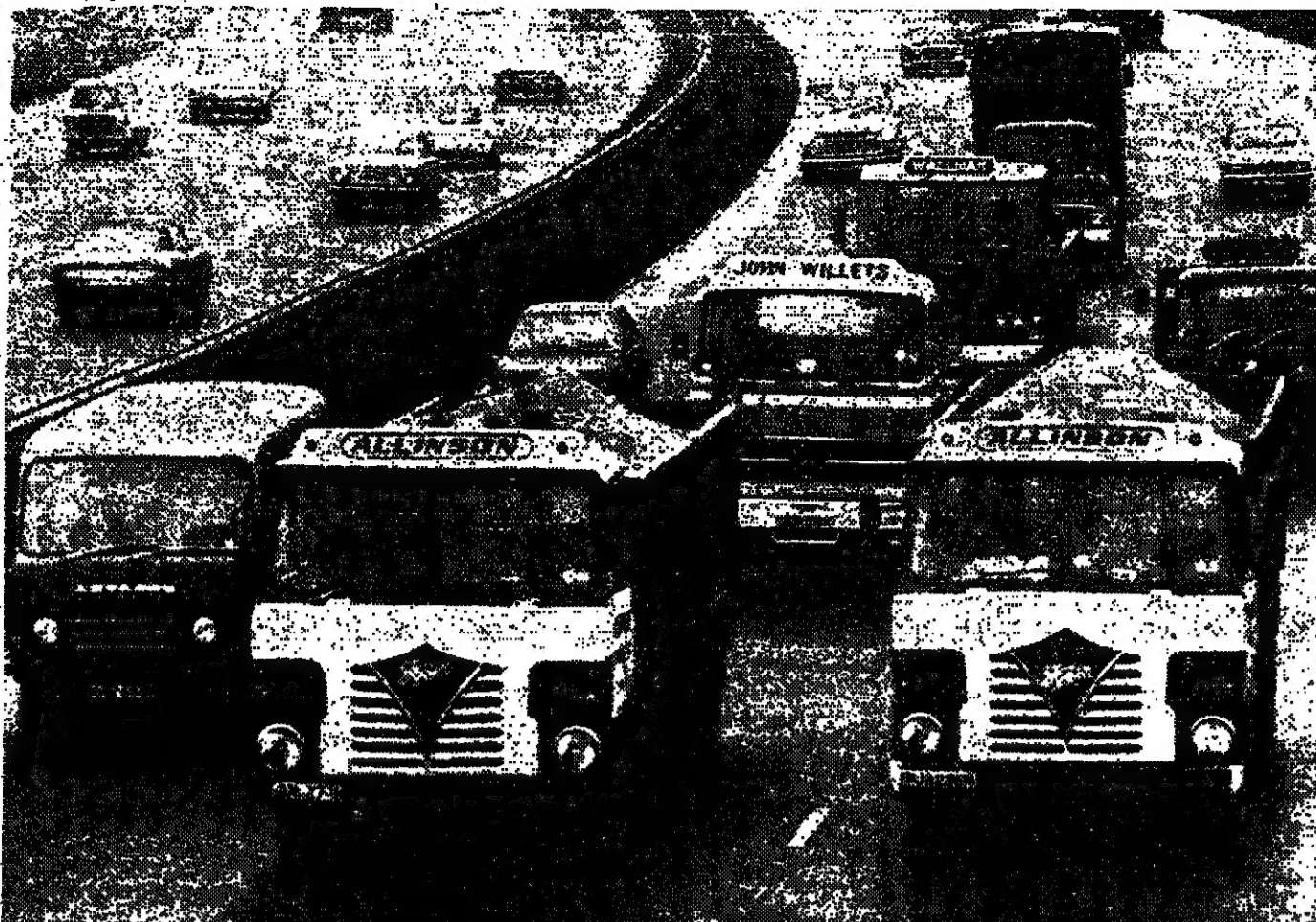
HOME NEWS

Two die as fog and ice grip four motorways

Two people, one a politician, were killed and at least 17 were injured in more than 20 accidents in fog and ice on motorways in north-west England yesterday. Conditions on the M6, M62, M52 and M63 were described by the Automobile Association as murderous. Police-constable John Cameron, aged 27, of Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, died when a patrol car overturned and burst into flames after being in collision with a lorry. The crash occurred in thick fog at the junction of the M62 and M63 at Hasp Bridge, near Bury. His companion, PC Michael Kennedy, was treated for a fractured jaw. The two men were driving to join fog patrols when the accident occurred. The other man who died was Mr John Morphet, aged 50, of Thomas Street, Hindley Green, Wigan. He was killed in the second of a long series of crashes on the M62. At one time 40 miles of the M62, from Merseyside to the Yorkshire boundary, was affected by accidents. Traffic police said the highways were like ice rinks. Drivers were condemned by a senior officer in the Greater Manchester Police control room. "An accident was quickly followed by others because motorists were going too fast for the conditions," he said. "Speed limits did not have any effect."

John Chatterton, writing from Manchester: Overhead lighting at a cost of about £30,000 is to be installed on the M62 later this year. Contrary to fears expressed when the Pennine motorway was opened four years ago, more accidents have occurred at this level on the outskirts of Manchester than on the 1,000ft contours of West Yorkshire.

Greater Manchester police recorded 294 accidents in 1975, five of them fatal and 18 involving serious injury. Another 233, one involving serious in-



Heavy lorries crowding the M62 yesterday as accident reports flooded in from motorways in north-west England.

jury, occurred on their stretch of the M62 in the first 10 months of 1976. Many accidents took place on the two-mile Irwell valley stretch, which descends almost to sea level and is often shrouded in fog. West Yorkshire Police, who are responsible for about 30 miles of the road, including the whole of the stretch over the Pennines, reported 69 accidents, with three deaths and 110 injuries in 1975 and 45 killed and 70 injured in the first nine months of 1976.

Tenders for lighting the Irwell valley stretch are to be invited by Greater Manchester Council in April, although the council does not necessarily expect the lighting greatly to reduce the accident rate.

The road is carrying far more traffic than had been expected. 65,000 vehicles in 16 hours on the last count, a quarter of

them heavy lorries. It serves both as a long-distance link between the west and east coasts and as a ring road for Greater Manchester.

On the Irwell valley stretch heavy lorries tend to occupy both inner lanes. Car drivers tend to select the outside lane to avoid congestion and many have to cross two lanes of slow-moving, nose-to-tail traffic to reach turning-off points.

Mr Donald Ellison, Greater Manchester's assistant chief constable for traffic and com-

Parents boycott school after bus crash

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

School buses left Bliththorpe, Nottinghamshire, almost empty yesterday as parents carried out their boycott decision after Wednesday's crash in which 70 children were injured.

Only a few pupils turned up for the six buses, which normally take 300 children from Bliththorpe to the Joseph Whitaker Comprehensive School at Rainworth, near Mansfield.

A nurse stood by at the school in case of delayed school

Mrs Maude Tuck, whose son, aged 16, was in the crash, said: "Some children are so frightened of buses now that it may take two to three weeks before they dare use them again. Some mothers are saying that they will never use the buses again."

Sixteen children and a bus driver were still detained in Mansfield General Hospital last night. The accident, on Wednesday, involved two school buses and a coal lorry.

Meanwhile villagers have launched an appeal fund for the injured children. They also pledged to start a new campaign to get a secondary school built in the village.

Mr Derek Sowell, the county deputy director of education, said yesterday: "There are not enough children in Bliththorpe to support even a small comprehensive school. I hope that within a few days the parents will realize the difficulties and send their children back to school."

Muddle delays change in compensation law

By George Clark Political Correspondent

Changes in the law on compensation for personal injury, damage to property or any other loss caused by defective products are to be proposed in reports from the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission, to be published soon. But government action will be delayed because of a muddle in the preparation of a European Community directive covering the same subject.

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, in a report prepared by Lord Diplock, Lord of Appeal and a member of the Lord Chancellor's law reform committee, point out that the directive clashes with the draft European convention on product liability, which is open for ratification by member states of the Council of Europe, and which would ensure a wider area for legal harmonization.

In particular, Lord Diplock's committee says the convention states that contributory negligence by the injured person or claimant (in the case of fatal injury) may give rise to a reduction or disallowance of the claim.

The convention also provides that a similar reduction or disallowance of a claim shall apply where the fault contributing to the injury is that of a servant or agent of a claimant.

"In contrast to this the only defences available to the producer, for which the directive provides, are for him to prove either that he did not put the defective article into circulation or that it was not defective when he did so," the Lords committee states.

"On the face of it, this would appear to prohibit any disallowance or reduction of a claim on the ground of contributory negligence. In our opinion, if any directive is to be made, it is essential that it should deal expressly with the legal consequences of fault on the part of the injured person or the claimant which contributed to the damage that he has sustained."

Lord Diplock and his colleagues call attention to another feature of the EEC directive. It seeks to limit the liability of the producer "for all personal injuries caused by identical articles having the same defect" to 25 million European units of account (£10.4m).

The purpose is to keep the potential liability of a producer within limits that can be covered by insurance at a premium that is not so high as to necessitate an unreasonable increase in the price of the product.

The Lords committee says such limitation calls for express provision about how it should be applied between the various claimants.

"Is each claimant to be paid in full until the limitation amount is exhausted, with latecomers getting nothing?" the Lords committee asks. "Or is it, as in the international conventions mentioned here, to be divided ratably among all the claimants?"

"Those two conventions, however, apply to damage caused on a single occasion, which makes it practicable within a reasonably short period to ascertain who are claimants and what the total amount of claims is likely to be."

But the fact that an injury has been caused by a defective article may not become apparent until long after articles having the same defect have been put on the market or even long after they have been consumed by the claimant or the claimant's parent, the committee says.

The period of uncertainty about the proportion of the amount recoverable by an individual claimant may be prolonged until the end of 10 years, the maximum period of claim written into the directive.

"The proposed directive provides no solution to any of these problems," the report concludes. "It contains serious deficiencies, and Parliament should not proceed with its further consideration until after the law commissions had reported."

In brief

Paraffin to cost more

The maximum retail price of paraffin will rise by 31p a gallon from midnight tonight, pushing up the price to between 45p and 47p, depending on grade and area.

The oil companies are believed to have asked the Price Commission for an increase of 5p a gallon because of the higher cost of crude oil, caused mainly by the fall in the value of the pound.

Summons served on Princess

Mr Walter Stansfield, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, disclosed yesterday that a summons, alleging speeding on the M1, has been served on Princess Anne. She was stopped by a police car on November 27, and her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, was with her.

The summons is returnable at Alfreton magistrates' court on January 21.

Helicopter patrol

Two long-range helicopters from the Royal Naval Air station at Culdrose, Cornwall, are to join patrols off the south-west coast to watch for breaches of Britain's 200-mile fishing limit. The helicopter crews will be asked to confirm sightings by RAF aircraft and a naval frigate and take on-the-spot photographs.

The Prince of Wales

The Prince of Wales will return to the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, next month for a refresher course on flying the Jet Provost trainer. He was recently promoted to the rank of wing commander.

Lord Goodman

Peter Wilby interviews Lord Goodman, "the busiest man in England". Maurice Wiles examines theology; and Dennis Welland reviews the new Oxford Book of American Verse, all in The Times Higher Education Supplement today.

Education accused of failure

From Tim Devlin Education Correspondent

Madeley, Staffordshire

The education system has failed to keep pace with changes in industry and society, and much of its philosophy and content are outmoded, Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood, the pottery company, told about two hundred leading educationists at the North of England Education Conference at Madeley College of Education, Staffordshire, yesterday.

For many years, he said, Britain had not received value for money in education because schools were providing mediocre recruits to industry.

It was the clash at an important education conference since the Prime Minister called last October for closer links between the two. Sir Arthur, the first non-member of the Wedgwood family to run the family firm, was complimented on his courage in entering the lion's den, but was challenged on most of his points.

His most provocative suggestion was that the abolition of grammar schools was widening the rift between industry and education and contributing to

the mediocre output of school-leavers. It ran counter to an earlier address from Mr Peter Browning, Chief Education Officer of Bedfordshire, who said the best hope for ending Britain's industrial difficulties lay in the development of comprehensive schools.

Sir Arthur called for teaching to be reorganized so that young people should be better prepared for work. He said industry should make itself more attractive to school-leavers and graduates and encourage employees to do further training.

Calling for better careers guidance, Sir Arthur argued that a spell in industry would equip teachers to become better counsellors in steering young people into their first jobs.

Sir Arthur advocated a return to formal teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic as the grounding best suited to alleviate Britain's difficulties in the industrial sector. He complained that many leavers were virtually unemployable because they were illiterate and innumerate. New recruits to his company had to be given expensive remedial education in mathematics and English.

"Industry has the right to expect the education system fully to recognize and cater for its needs," he said. "The least of its worries should have to be education. That part of the wealth of the nation that goes into education should be providing the best trained and the best qualified young men and women that we can attract into industry."

Sir Arthur, who is 53 and was educated at Longton High School, Stoke-on-Trent, said grammar schools provided a sound, if somewhat old-fashioned education but they also instilled standards of social behaviour and a certain esprit de corps which made it easier for their products to be absorbed into industry.

Earlier, Mr Browning told the conference that Britain's greatest difficulties lay in the field of industrial relations. The best hope lay in the development of comprehensive schools, where the future workers and the managers would be educated together.

But he gave a warning that it might be 20 years before the process of comprehensive re-organization could work through properly.

Paying for Electricity and Gas.

A Code of Practice.

Union to start campaign against racism

By Ronald Kirbyshaw

The National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), which has 650,000 members, is to launch a programme to counter what its executive sees as a "growing campaign of politically inspired racist propaganda from extreme right-wing groups outside the union."

The executive says that more than in most unions, its members include many people from the West Indies, Africa and Asia, as well as from Europe.

"Whatever their origins," it says, "they make a vital contribution to the well-being of Britain through their work in the public services, and they are active and loyal members of the union."

It is no accident, it continues, that racist propaganda is growing at a time when the union is waging a campaign against public spending cuts to protect the jobs and earnings of its members.

Call to ban "immigrant": A call to end the use of the word "immigrant" was made in London yesterday by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at a conference organized by the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

"In the next couple of years we are going to have to make up our minds to drop the word 'immigrant'," she said. There are black, brown, white and yellow Britons, and it is about time we recognized that fact. We are a rainbow country."

Education must be made more internationally responsive. That could be done in Britain by recognizing that this was a multinational and multicultural country, and using that to make education more alive.

Democracy was a great gamble on human nature's being in the end decent. "The National Front has to be allowed to preach its poisonous doctrine while we have a democracy. All we can do is to lay down the broad guidelines within which freedom of speech is acceptable," she added.

Students' union sells its insurance company

By Frances Gibb

Times Higher Education Supplement

The National Union of Students has agreed in principle to sell its company, Endsleigh Insurance (Brokers) Ltd, to Gouda, the eighth largest insurance company in the Netherlands. Gouda will pay the NUS £300,000 in cash over three years and 1.5 per cent commission on all business arriving from the company.

That is likely to amount to £20,000 a year on the company's present performance. This year it made a record surplus of £100,000. The decision follows the collapse in November of the NUS's travel and printing companies, which went into liquidation with combined debts of about £300,000. That left the union without the funds necessary to maintain Endsleigh Insurance as a profitable enterprise.

In a letter to all local student unions yesterday Mr

We in the Gas and Electricity industries have always wanted our customers to enjoy the benefit of regular supplies.

So long as those supplies are paid for promptly.

Most people do pay their bills on time. But some find paying difficult because of genuine hardship.

We want to help and advise people as much as we can. So we have produced a Code of Practice which has been agreed with the Government.

The Code explains how we can help all customers who want to budget wisely for their bills.

There are pay-as-you-go schemes to suit many different needs.

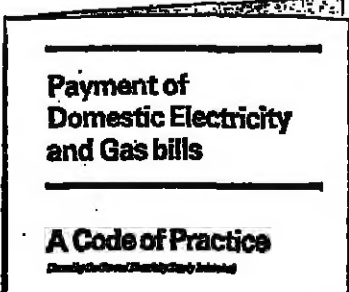
It also explains how we can help to safeguard genuine hardship cases against disconnection.

We're particularly concerned to protect pensioners, breadwinners who are unemployed, and families who get Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement, or who have children under five years of age.

Copies of the Code are now available at all Gas and Electricity Board showrooms.

As the Code points out, we have a duty to see that bills are settled promptly. This is in everyone's interest. But where customers

genuinely do need assistance, then within the Code, we will do everything we reasonably can to help.



WEST EUROPE

Señor Carrillo will use new found freedom to campaign for the return of 'La Pasionaria'

From William Chislett
Madrid, Jan 6

The Spanish Communist Party is hoping that Señora Dolores Ibarruri, "La Pasionaria", its legendary president who is 82, will be able to return to Spain next month for the first time in 37 years. Señor Santiago Carrillo, the party's secretary general, told *The Times*.

Señor Carrillo, who was released on bail from Carabanchel prison a week ago pending possible though unlikely trial for illegal association—and so allowed to live legally in Spain—using his freedom to fight for Señora Ibarruri's return.

"If she is refused permission we shall mount a national and international campaign and as a last resort she will arrive at Barajas airport illegally, although we hope this will not be necessary," he said.

The day he was released Señor Carrillo telephoned her in Moscow and she told him: "I have my bags packed."

Señor Carrillo now finds himself probably the most guarded man in Spain after Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, and King Juan Carlos. Outside the entrance to the block of flats where Señor Carrillo lives with his family on the edge of the working class district of Vallecas, two young party members check all his visitors. Further down the street, the police watch from a distance.

For the extreme rightists Señor Carrillo is public enemy No. 1. They blame him for the killings of 12,000 prisoners at the beginning of the civil war at Franco's order.

The publication of General Franco's civil war veterans, *El Alcazar*, claimed in an article on Monday that Señor Carrillo had ordered the killings.

Señor Carrillo said he was not involved in the killings. He said the book was a lie, but he was not sure where he was long before his arrest.

"The government did not take my presence here seriously until I gave the press conference in December and then it took steps to get me. They refused until then to believe the rumours that I was here," he said.

He entered Spain on February 17, apparently as a tourist crossing the French border. He would not confirm this specifically but denied that he had come by way of Portugal.

"Spain is very easy to enter. I can tell you that most of the times that I entered Spain during my 11-month illegal period here I was not even asked for my passport. I entered like any other tourist."

His experience of living 22 years clandestinely in France undoubtedly helped.

Later this month the party is to publish a list of its candidates for the forthcoming general election. Señor Carrillo seems confident that the party will be able to take part in it.

He said that his party would not form an electoral alliance with the Socialists but did, however, reveal that there might be a wide alliance, including the Progressive Christian Democrats, for the election for the Senate.

There will thus be no alliance in the poll for the Lower House which is elected by the form of proportional representation, but there may well be one for the Upper House, whose members are elected by a simple majority system.

If the democratic forces present themselves separately for the Senate then the Francoist forces will probably win, but if there is an alliance then the democratic presence can be assured," he said.

"It is not the time for the unification of the left. It is the moment for wider collaboration of the democratic forces to establish freedom. Perhaps after democracy is established there will be alliances."

Leading article, page 13

Señor Carrillo read out a passage about Paracuellos which said that the killings had been carried out between November 1 and November 7, 1936. He said: "I did not take up my position as head of public order until the night of the seventh." He then turned to the pictures of documents and said: "Not one of them is signed by me."

He had been responsible only for the decision to transfer the prisoners from Madrid to Valencia after November 7. On the way, "forces which at that moment we could not determine stopped the convoy and killed the prisoners."

He is writing a letter to the press about the matter. "It is only now that I have become politically important that this campaign has started," he said.

"If we begin like this we shall never have reconciliation but only a spirit of revenge which will make the goal of democracy and peaceful change impossible. If we take the responsibilities now on both sides, and those of the nationalists were enormous after the war with over 200,000 executions, there will be another civil war and not reconciliation."

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OVERSEAS

Russia to withhold UN dues for Sinai force

From Peter Strafford
New York, Jan 6

The Russians have announced that they are refusing to pay a substantial part of their dues for the financing of the United Nations emergency force in Sinai. The surprise announcement came in a note last month to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, has aroused fears of a new diplomatic crisis over Middle East arrangements.

The Soviet refusal will not have any immediate effect on the force itself. It is seen in New York as being more of an attempt by the Russians to assert their presence in any Middle East moves at a moment when the Carter Administration is preparing to see what it can do.

The main point made in the Russian note is that they had nothing to do with the second Sinai disengagement agreement, which was negotiated by Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, and signed on September 4, 1975. They describe the agreement as having circumvented the Geneva peace conference.

Because of this, they say, the Soviet Union cannot bear any financial responsibility for the force. The implications of the agreement, including any additional expenses caused, it is therefore going to pay only half of the expenses for the period from October 1975 to October 1976.

It is still not quite clear what the implications will be, partly because of ambiguity in the wording of the note. It says that the Russians will pay half of their contributions "amounting to \$6,048,985 (\$3,552,340)."

According to United Nations figures, total Russian contributions should be \$16,500,000. At a press conference today, Mr Oleg Troyanovsky, the new Soviet permanent representative, refused to clear up the matter. He made two points:

that the Russians could not bear responsibility for measures taken without their involvement and that they regarded measures of this sort as a temporary solution.

The Russian move came as a complete surprise to United Nations officials and to other member states.

Two jailed for Bronfman extortion plot

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 6

The two men found guilty of extortion in the 1975 "kidnapping" of Mr Samuel Bronfman, the heir to a liquor fortune, were jailed today in White Plains, New York.

Mr Mel Lynch, a fireman, was sentenced to a period of four, to 12 years, while Mr Dominic Byrne, a chauffeur, was jailed for a period between three and nine years.

Both men were found not guilty of kidnapping Mr Bronfman. They had told the court that the alleged kidnapping had been part of a plot organized by Mr Bronfman to extort money from his father, Mr Edgar Bronfman.

They were found guilty of extorting \$23m (£1.55m) in ransom.

Bank men for trial

Calvo, Jan 6.—Eight people, four of them senior officials in one of the main Egyptian banks, are to stand trial on charges of misconduct and seizure of public funds worth about £250,000.

The Prime Minister also explained that if the lira suffered further weakening, he would have to introduce measures for curtailing the sale of meat—the proposal was apparently to close butchers' shops on certain days of the week—and for rationing petrol or reducing its use.

The unions would not hear of the idea of tampering with the cost-of-living increases. Their leaders apparently stated that if the Government went ahead with such changes over the heads of the unions they would no longer abide by the strategy of waiting to see what the Government's economic policy might be. This was taken to include a threat of more strikes.

Setback for the Gaullists

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 6

M. Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, the dynamic and controversial deputy of Lorraine, and former president of the Gaullist Party, has today been elected to the Regional Council, the economic authority for the area, defeating M. Pierre Messmer, the former Gaullist Prime Minister, on the fourth ballot.

It was the first of a series of confrontations between the parties of the Government majority. The clash between the Centrists and Independent Republicans on the one hand, and Gaullists on the other, took place in an area where the antagonism between them has been very lively.

Both M. Messmer and M. Servan-Schreiber are national personalities in their respective parties, and the latter's victory today is bound to encourage the Independent Republicans and Centrists.

"I was told by two Soviet economists that we had harvested in a row without help would lead to the collapse of the economy," Mr Amalrik, the author of *Will the Soviet Union survive until 1984?* declared.

In the same breath Mr Amalrik, who was testifying before the newly established Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, wondered aloud whether the Soviet Union was men left in the West.

In dealing with the Soviet leaders who must have great patience and great strength of will, I don't see anybody in the West who combines these two qualities. But maybe I am wrong."

Mr Amalrik's prescription of a tougher, yet cautious détente coincides with the fierce controversy over the Soviet military capability. It is also reported here that the United States has been quietly re-targeting some of its long range missiles to include big underground depots and industrial installations which the Soviet Government has been dispersing over the past six



Relaxed moment for the Tyler family under the tree that was their home in the Ethiopian rebels' desert camp. The photograph was taken by Mr Jon Swain of The Sunday Times who was held captive in the same camp.

Tylers slept under tree in the open

Continued from page 1

it was great mental stress for us. Two days before Christmas they learnt they were being released.

Mrs Tyler, who has a PhD in zoology from Cambridge University, and who was carrying out the first survey of Ethiopian birds for the Ethiopian

Wild Life Society, added: "Thank God it is all over now."

Mr Tyler said the guerrillas had captured them because they wanted publicity for their cause, namely self-determination for the more than four million inhabitants of the Tigre province. It was wrongly suggested at first that the guerrillas suspected they were spies.

For most of their captivity the family lived under a tree in a wadi, a dry river bed, in the desert. "We slept out on the ground," Mrs Tyler said. "We had no cover. After six months we had some rain and then they provided us with a tent where we slept at nights. But

it was only big enough for three of us, and my husband still slept outside."

They ate mostly canned food, but the guerrillas brought them dates and occasionally sweets for the children. They even had access to a radio but had to be careful about their movements during the day as this would attract Ethiopian aircraft looking for guerrillas.

Mr David Hunt, Conservative MP for Wirral, said he had asked the Foreign Office to hold an inquiry into the whole episode to see if all the steps taken had been the right ones. "What has concerned me all along is the length of time the

family were kept in captivity. Six months is a dreadful length of time, and nothing was done at all in the first three months. But I feel that at they have been released in good health, the approach of the Foreign Office in dealing with the guerrillas through the Sudanese Government had been justified."

He wanted to ask Mr Tyler if he had been warned of possible guerrilla activity in the area. Mr Jon Swain, reporter for The Sunday Times who held the same camp in northern Eritrea with them, had the impression that they were unaware of any danger.

Mr Richard has constructive talks with President of Mozambique

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 6

Mr Ivor Richard, the chairman of the Rhodesian settlement talks, held a cordial and constructive two-hour meeting with President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

The President held out the possibility that the guerrilla war in Rhodesia could be halted if acceptable means for transferring power from white-minority to black-majority rule could be found.

The Mozambican stage of Mr Richard's talks this morning. "I think there can now be greater justification for optimism about the outcome of his mission," one said after his departure for Dar es Salaam this evening.

Much will now depend on Mr Richard's talks tomorrow with President Nyerere of Tanzania and then on the summit meeting of the "front line" states at the weekend. Apart from the leaders of the four African states (Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia), which Mr Richard is visiting during his tour, the meeting will also be attended by President Neto of Angola.

be transferred from the hands of the minority to "the legitimate people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)."

"By finding these mechanisms we will then be able to eliminate the armed conflict which now exists in Zimbabwe," he added. "War is fed by blood and it destroys lives. We therefore say welcome to the chairman of the Geneva conference, welcome to Great Britain. Together we hope to find a solution."

British diplomats in Maputo have been encouraged by Mr Richard's talks this morning. "I think there can now be greater justification for optimism about the outcome of his mission," one said after his departure for Dar es Salaam this evening.

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The communiqué claimed that the Mozambican forces made an unprovoked attack on Rhodesian troops from across the frontier and that the Rhodesians returned the fire.

Dar es Salaam, Jan 6.—Asked on his arrival here about pessimistic statements by nationalist leaders on the chances of success in Geneva, Mr Richard said he would not be making his tour if he did not believe in the possibility of an agreement.

"I just wish people would not assume it's going to happen very quickly or very easily or that it's not going to happen at all," he added. "I suspect that in the end we will get an agreement but it's going to be a process that requires a great deal of care, a great deal of discussion and a great deal of deliberation."

Michael Kalpe writes from Salisbury: Rhodesian and Mozambican military forces were involved in a frontier clash yesterday, according to a Rhodesian military communiqué. It said the Rhodesian forces "neutralized the hostile positions". The clash coincided with Mr Richard's arrival in Mozambique.

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Comecon to build an atomic plant in Cuba

Moscow, Jan 6.—Comecon, the east European trading group of nations, plans to build a nuclear power station in Cuba, Tass said today.

It will be Cuba's first nuclear plant and plans for it were foreshadowed in an agreement signed last April in Moscow by the Soviet Union and Cuba, which joined Comecon in 1972.

Tass said new atomic generating facilities were also being installed and nuclear power stations built in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia. Preparatory work was under way for the construction of a nuclear power station in Poland.—Reuter.

Burma clash

Rangoon, Jan 6.—A Burmese army column routed a band of 200 communist-trained Shan tribal rebels on December 31 near Meehsu township, southern Shan, killing one and capturing rifles and ammunition. It was officially announced yesterday.

Jail break blow to Italian penal system

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Jan 6

Italy's overburdened and inadequate penal system suffered another blow with the escape last night of four inmates of Fossombrone jail, near Pesaro.

Only yesterday the chief public prosecutor in the Supreme Court, Dr Ubaldo Boccia, reported that three-quarters of Italian prisons were inoperative, and unoccupied last year. Last night's incident, the second big jail break this year, seems to indicate that those who are imprisoned would have little difficulty in escaping.

Last year 359 prisoners escaped from Italian jails, an average of nearly one a day. The rate so far this year is more than three a day, after the mass escape of 13 prisoners from Anzio jail last night. All 13 are still at large.

The prison governor, who had repeatedly complained to the justice ministry that his jail, like most others, was hopelessly understaffed, said that all 220 inmates could have got out had they wanted to.

Escapes have been made easier by recent jail reforms which give prisoners greater freedom to receive visitors, and therefore also weapons and other escape aids, and to maintain contact with the outside world by telephone.

Portuguese sculptor who died at the hands of the Salazar regime, are to appeal against a Lisbon court-martial verdict which means a man involved in the crime will be freed from jail in 10 months' time.

José Dias Coelho, the sculptor, was a member of the underground Communist Party when he was shot in a police ambush in a Lisbon street in December, 1961.

The court dismissed a murder charge against Antonio Domingues, a Pide agent who had 11 years' service when he was arrested soon after the 1974 revolution. It ruled that he had fired the fatal shot at the sculptor, but "without intent to kill and to prevent his escape."

It accordingly sentenced him to three years and six months imprisonment. As he has been in custody since his arrest he will have only 10 months more to serve.

The verdict led to protests from the public gallery. It has heightened the controversy about how the military courts are conducting the Pide trials. In other cases, the military courts have been immediately released having spent more time behind bars awaiting trial than the mild sentences imposed upon them.

"We still hope the Supreme Military Tribunal will substitute for this sentence another which will be exemplary," Dr Fernando Soares, the Coelho family's lawyer said last night.

Members of the governing Socialist Party, as well as Communists and Social Democrats have expressed reservations about the Pide verdicts, but there is also a reluctance to put pressure on the courts. President Eanes, asked for his views last night, declared: "The courts have given their rulings and I have to accept them without discussion."

Meanwhile Henrique Seixas, a former personal bodyguard of Dr Salazar, is facing trial on charges of torturing political prisoners when head of the guards at the Tarrafal concentration camp. The Association of Ex-political Prisoners has appealed for a demonstration outside the court and has collected testimony from 14 former inmates which it wants the court to consider.

President Eanes last night denied reports in right-wing Lisbon newspapers that left-wing members of the Council of the Revolution had discussed replacing Dr Soares, the Socialist Prime Minister, by a military figure during last month's difficult budget debates in parliament.

Challenge to US defence chiefs over Soviet 'lead'

From Fred Emery
Washington, Jan 6

Congress has quickly got down to the controversies of American-Soviet relations without waiting for Mr Carter's inauguration. What is being called the "battle of the estimate" about supposed Soviet "superiority" over the United States has brought a challenge to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to say whether they agree.

Today the exiled Soviet dissident writer, Mr Andrei Amalrik, appeared on Capitol Hill to issue his own challenge to Mr Carter. He suggested that the United States should not rely on the intelligence estimates of the Joint Chiefs, a questionnaire.

An intelligence subcommittee, under Senator Adlai Stevenson, is to investigate whether the "national estimate" was thereby slanted. The Senate foreign relations committee is also planning hearings on the strategic balance.

However, it is Senator Proxmire, long a scourge of Pentagon spending, who has issued the challenge to the Joint Chiefs. As a member of the Defence appropriations subcommittee he has sent General George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, a questionnaire.

Mr Proxmire is particularly critical of confining the "outside stimulus" to the intelligence community, which he agrees is needed, to one ideological group.

He has asked General Brown whether he agrees with the thoughts of General George Keegan, the recently retired Chief of Air Force Intelligence, who says the Soviet Union already has superiority over the United States, and is working on weapons which are so exotic and dramatic that they are 20 years ahead of anything the United States has.

The answers to Mr Proxmire's questionnaire and the debate will influence the defence budget in which President-elect Carter is pledged to find savings this year of between \$5,000m and (£3,000m) and \$7,000m.

years of its supposedly massive civil defence programme. It is this apparent Soviet effort to "survive" a nuclear war that has contributed to much of the new alarm.

For some the alarm is suspect. The fact that known anti-détente hardliners, under the leadership of Professor Richard Pipes of Harvard, were brought in to "second guess" the professional intelligence assessors is causing an uproar.

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Mr Carter's victory becomes official

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 6

Mr Jimmy Carter was today officially proclaimed President-elect. The casually informed assumed that happened on November 2 in the election.

But the general election technically produced electors, who voted in colleges in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia on December 13. That produced the unofficial result of 297 electoral college votes for Mr Carter, 240 for Mr Ford, and one for Mr Reagan. This last was won for Mr Carter by an elector who voted his own preference rather than his state's.

OVERSEAS

Japanese will strengthen coastal defences to counter Carter pledge of withdrawal from Korea

From Tokyo, Jan 6
The Japanese Government is drawing up contingency plans to strengthen its coastal defences against a possible invasion of the country's western coast, the closest point to South Korea, on the assumption that President-elect Carter will gradually withdraw American troops from the Korean peninsula during the next four years.

Mr. Katsuo Yanagita, a spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said today that the future situation on the Korean peninsula remains conjectural, but Japan's defence agency is preparing to plan for a contingency in the military balance on the Korean peninsula becomes unstable.

In the past, Japan's western coast, including Kyushu Island, was regarded as an important role in defence planning. Instead, the infrastructure of the country's Self-Defence Forces has been concentrated in Hokkaido Island and other northern regions.

The plan to strengthen the south-western region was mooted last month after the American President-elect announced that he expected to conduct a gradual and slow withdrawal of the remaining force of 38,000 American troops in South Korea.

Mr. Carter's pledge has greatly perturbed Tokyo and Seoul, where the authorities vehemently oppose the gradual reduction of American military presence in South Korea as long as the communist regime in Pyongyang remains belligerent.

Both countries have embarked on a vigorous diplomatic campaign to dissuade Mr. Carter and South Korea has now turned to Japan for support. Mr. Yanagita said today that South Korea has called for a round of ministerial talks to discuss Mr. Carter's plans.

Reports from Seoul suggest that President Park hopes to form a "diplomatic front" with Japan to convince Washington that a further reduction of American troops in Korea will threaten the security of America's two allies.

However, the Japanese Government suggested today that it did not believe that a joint initiative would help convince the Carter Administration of the dangers of withdrawal.

The United States must eventually withdraw its forces from South Korea. We would like to see it happen under a gradual and methodical plan, when the situation is less dangerous. The South Koreans have their own argument.

"Although Japan is a third party, we are very much concerned. . . . We will put our case to Washington, but I do not think that joint action might be an appropriate measure. However, we will not refuse to discuss the matter with South Korea at ministerial talks," Mr. Yanagita added.

Mr. Fumihiko Togo, the

Japanese Ambassador in Washington, first attacked Mr. Carter's proposal last November, describing the American presence as a "safety valve".

Government officials argue that Mr. Carter is attempting to renege on the "Korea clause" ratified in 1969 during talks between Mr. Eisaku Sato and President Nixon. The clause, inserted into a joint communiqué, stated that "the security of the Republic of Korea is essential to Japan's own security".

As Japan announced the shift in its defence policy, this morning, letters to leading newspapers denounced the Government's posture. In an angry letter to the *Asahi Shimbun*, a Korean resident in Japan wrote: "Regrettably Japan has yet to learn from its past errors. The Japanese Government (as former colonialists) apparently still finds it expedient to devise plans for the Korean people and impose them on Koreans."

"This time the grand plan requires an American military strength as the means to an objective which seemed profitable to Tokyo against Mr. Carter's wishes. The tragic history of antagonism between the two peoples was caused by the egocentric greed of the Japanese."

"What Japanese officials are saying is: the Korean peninsula must be kept divided. The American troops should remain there indefinitely to enforce this division because Japanese profits require it."

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Jan 6
Leading Israeli newspapers today accused the Government of trying to make the media a scapegoat in the suicide of Abraham Ofer, the Minister of Housing. Mr. Ofer shot himself this week while police were investigating accusations of financial irregularities involving a building company he headed before he became a minister.

The press called for a continuation of the investigation to reveal the full truth. An authorized source at police headquarters in Jerusalem said a decision would be taken probably next week.

The press, the Prime Minister said in a funeral oration yesterday that he personally accepted Mr. Ofer's protestations of innocence. He added that the tragedy should shock people into realising the dangers of prejudicing persons in the written or spoken word. The newspaper *Haaretz* said this was a transparent attempt to blame the media for the tragedy.

The paper said information about the Ofer investigations came from a source that could not be ignored.

Another paper, *Marriv*, protested that when corruption, embezzlement or bribery came to light the press was blamed for failing in its duty as watchdog of the administration. But when the media fought corruption it was accused of character assassination, a witchhunt and adjudicating in headlines.

Israel media reject blame for Ofer suicide

From David Benavie, Hongkong, Jan 6
A series of wall posters in Peking today attracted keen public attention by claiming that Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Vice-Chairman of the Communist Party, had been victimized by Chiang Ching, Mao Tse-tung's widow, when she had him ousted from office last April.

The poster also accused Chiang Ching of her accomplices in the so-called "gang of four" of inciting the riots on April 5 which were used as the pretext for Mr. Teng's dismissal, according to a Reuters report from Peking. Throughout the summer the Chinese press had blamed Mr. Teng for the riots.

Observers in Hongkong believe this to be a clear sign that Mr. Teng—who has recently been seen in public again—will soon be given a senior position in the leadership. He kept his party membership despite losing his other posts. It is thought possible that he may be given the job of purging and rebuilding the demoralized Communist Party.

The People's Liberation Army has officially assumed control of the most important railway junction in China at Chengchow, in Hunan province on the Yellow River. This junction controls the intersection of the principal east-west and north-south railways, without which the country would grind to a halt.

The Army's assumption of control at Chengchow, which came two days before the new year, reflects the feeling on the part of the military commanders that the railways are too important to be subjected to civilian mismanagement of political unrest among the workers, as has happened for some time past.

It will be no surprise if other key railway junctions and even certain industries of strategic importance are also brought officially under the control of the military.

China is heading towards a form of military dictatorship, indeed to a considerable extent it already is under one. The question is how far military control will be extended into the civilian administration, as happened on a big scale when the Cultural Revolution got out of hand in 1967, and how long the Army commanders will want to run basically civilian operations while the country puts its affairs in order.

The assumption of important responsibilities by regional military commanders also raises the spectre of conflicts among them, and between them and the Politburo in Peking, which has been dominated by the military since the October coup.

The Army's role is particularly important at a time when China has undergone civil disturbances as a result of the dismissal of Mr. Teng and the related issues, as well as the death of Chairman Mao in September. The disturbances—which have affected the provinces of Fukien, Yunnan and Szechwan among others, as well as the city of Peking south of Peking—appear to have been largely brought under control, undoubtedly through the use of the armed forces.

Against this background of increasing military control, the position of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, an essentially civilian leader, is beginning to look more and more like that of a figurehead.

Chairman Hua taking on the appearance of a military figurehead China comes under increasing army control

From John Best, Ottawa, Jan 6
Winston Churchill told William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, in 1946 that he was prepared to account to God for the atomic bombing of Japan.

Mr. King's personal diary recounts an unusual after-dinner conversation with Mr. Churchill on a visit Mr. King made to London less than a year after the end of the war.

Mr. King died in 1950. His voluminous diary is being made public in stages by the Canadian Public Archives.

In their conversation, he and Mr. Churchill talked about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and about a life after death, according to an entry by Mr. King on May 22, 1946.

"The way Churchill put it when discussing it with me was he expected that he would have to account to God as he had to his own conscience for the decision."

"That God would ask him why he had done this and that he would reply he had seen the horrors of war . . . that there were thousands of lives—fine American soldiers—all of which would likely be destroyed or tortured."

Mr. King wrote that Mr. Churchill had feared the war would drag on and civilization would break down. "He had to decide what in the end would be best for mankind and he felt that he, regardless of what the consequences might be, had done what was right."

Three terrorists hanged publicly in Syria
Damascus, Jan 6.—Three men convicted of bombings in Damascus and Aleppo which killed a number of people were publicly hanged in Syria today.

Jaber Ahmed Rabbo, a Palestinian, said to be a member of the Black September Palestinian terrorist group, was hanged in a Damascus square. The others, both Syrians, were hanged in Aleppo.

Churchill thought Hiroshima right
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Indian censors take easier line towards 'The Times'

By Our Foreign Staff
The past two months have seen an apparent easing in the attitude of the Indian censors towards *The Times*. In November, only four issues of the newspaper were banned and in December none was prevented from circulating.

These figures contrast with September and October during which 14 issues of the newspaper were banned, together with two issues of each of the paper's three supplements.

The criteria employed by the Indian censors are unknown but in each of the four issues banned in November there has been a story relating to the subcontinent.

The issue of November 1, which was banned, contained an article reporting a revolt in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. The issue of the following day was also banned.

This carried a page 1 article giving details of the 14 issues of the newspaper banned in India during September and October.

On November 3 the newspaper was again banned. This issue contained, on the inside pages, a dispatch from *The Times* local correspondent in Delhi reporting the massive approval given by Indian MPs to the Constitution (Forty-Fourth Amendment) Bill. News agency material on the same subject contained critical comments by opposition politicians.

The most recent issue banned was on November 6 when the newspaper reported a press briefing on the September rioting in the North-West Frontier area of Pakistan in which government spokesmen said 62 people had died in protests against government reforms.

Report awaited on Australian nuclear waste
Canberra, Jan 6.—Australia is unlikely to ask Britain to pay for safety measures for radioactive waste left over from British nuclear testing and buried in Australia, senior Defence Department officials said today.

Commenting on a report in *The Times* today, the officials said, however, that the final decision would rest with Mr. James Killen, the Defence Minister, who is on holiday.

Mr. Killen's office said the minister would not comment on the report until he had received the findings of a defence inquiry into precisely what nuclear waste material was buried. Defence Department officials said the inquiry should be completed by the end of the month.—Reuters.

Pakistan decides to let six hijackers go free

Islamabad, Jan 6.—Pakistan has decided to release six men who hijacked an Indian airliner last September and forced it to fly to Lahore.

The Government said the evidence available was not sufficient to justify criminal proceedings against them. Last October an official spokesman said they would be tried on charges of violating Pakistani laws.

The identity of the hijackers has never been disclosed but they are thought to be Muslims. They were arrested at Lahore airport after releasing all 78 passengers and crew.

Delhi, Jan 6.—India today deplored Pakistan's decision, saying the move was out of tune with efforts to normalize relations between the two countries.

Report awaited on Australian nuclear waste

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Five Africans burnt alive

Pretoria, South Africa, Jan 6.—Five Africans have been burnt alive in a fire which broke out in a village here since Tuesday, according to police.

They were the latest victims of a series of murders which began during Christmas when a man and his wife were bound hand and foot and hung on to a bonfire, watched by hundreds of villagers. Scores of people have been arrested.—Reuters.

BBC to reopen Delhi bureau

Delhi, Jan 6.—The Indian Government has agreed to a request by the BBC to be allowed to reopen its bureau and post a correspondent in Delhi, a government spokesman disclosed today.

The BBC closed down its operations in India soon after the state of emergency was declared in June 1975.—Agence France-Presse.

Mr Foot angered by Levin article on Mrs Gandhi

By Our Political Staff
Mr. Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, last night described as "a monstrous lie" Bernard Levin's statement in *The Times* yesterday that "the truth is that Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator and is going to be".

He was speaking at a reception arranged by the India League in London.

The text of the relevant part of Mr. Foot's speech was as follows:

Mr. Bernard Levin concludes an article in *The Times* today with the words: "The truth is that Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator and is going to be."

Let me say at once and without any equivocation whatever: so little is that the truth that it adds up to a monstrous lie. Furthermore, the peddling of such lies can do infinite damage to relations between our two countries.

Let me add at once, to avoid any misapprehensions: of course, it is right that people who reject democratic liberties everywhere should express our deep anxiety about the suspension of various civil liberties which has occurred in India under the emergency, of course it is right that we should express our deep desire and interest to see those liberties restored, and, more especially, to see free elections held.

Of course it is right that we

should examine with the greatest care, and criticism with the utmost vigour, if we think it desirable, the proposed changes in the Indian constitution—although many of those changes, we should note, will give to the Indian Parliament the supremacy in the Indian constitution which the British Parliament has held in our own.

However, it is necessary if we are to preserve decent relations between our two countries—and the future of democracy and peace may well depend on those relations—that we should recognize what were the conditions in India prior to the declaration of the emergency, and what has happened since in many spheres, and what has happened in neighbouring countries.

Of course, one way was open to Mrs Gandhi which would have spared her the strictures of Mr. Levin and everyone else. She could have had herself assassinated—as Allende was assassinated in Chile by the forces of reaction. Mr. Levin, possibly, would then have written an eloquent obituary, and please don't let anyone tell me that such events are inconceivable in modern Indian conditions; the facts speak very differently.

My guess, and mine may be better than Mr. Levin's, is that the vast majority of Indian people are glad that Mrs Gandhi chose a different course. Her departure from the Indian scene at this period, whether by an assassin's bullet or by a judicial edict, would have been a tragedy for the Indian people.



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LEICESTER	1hr 24min
PLYMOUTH	3hr 42min
NOTTINGHAM	1hr 55min
STOKE-ON-TRENT	1hr 45min

Inter-City
makes the going easy

When some of the best moments are also the worst



Photograph by David Jones

Clare Francis has had her fill of singlehanded sailing. A hot bath and human fellowship were the sum of her ambitions when she reached Newport, Rhode Island on July 4 last year after 29 days alone at sea. She was the first of the four girls in the Observer Royal Western Singlehanded Transatlantic Race to finish, came thirteen overall, and knocked three days off the women's record time for the crossing in weather that made finishing at all no mean feat.

The reviving powers of hot baths being what they are, and Clare Francis being the lady she is, her head is now full of plans to take part in the Round the World Race starting from Portsmouth on August 27. But before she gets down to it, there is her book about the solo crossing *Come Hell or High Water* launched yesterday, and 10 days of personal appearances at the Boat Show with Robertson's Golly, the boat she did it in.

In the book, which she wrote in just five weeks, she gives a breezy behind-the-scenes glimpse of the painstaking preparation required for a long passage, the necessity of sponsorship, the terrors and joys of singlehanded sailing and, above all, of the total tiredness of not having more than two hours sleep at a time for nearly a month. Her stories list makes fascinating reading—no meat and all that fruit. The minutiae of the voyage, her lost hairbrush, bruised shins and paper panties are engagingly frank, but tell little of why or how she did these things.

Two qualities are striking when you meet Clare Francis—her reserve, and her professional. Newspaper and television stories invariably refer, as if surprised, to her height, five feet two, and her weight, seven stone. She is, as she says, stronger than she looks, "but people do expect me to be bigger, and they expect me to be compensating for something important missing in my life".

In the book she talks, almost wistfully, of the camaraderie of competitors before and after big races, as if, though she looks forward to the parties, and looks back on them with pleasure, being there is not best. "Of course arriving is marvellous, and doing well in a race is very satisfying. But some of the best moments are also the worst. If I have been up all night, changing sails or mending a piece of broken gear, I will be so exhausted that I just sit flopped in a heap in wet clothes and wet slippers. Sometimes I will sit like this for ages—cold, wet, tired and happy".

The film she made of the crossing was gripping viewing. A meddlesome feature of documentary adventure films is that as soon as the adventure part gets really exciting, the person did take getting used to. But it was also difficult for me to

filming to hang on to the mountain, fight the giant octopus, or whatever. Clare Francis did better. Armed with cameras and sound equipment by the BBC's *World About Us* team, and a long list of involved instructions, she continued shooting through exhaustion, exasperation, and appalling weather. It is this kind of determination to meet the expectations of her supporters and sponsors that is typical of her professionalism. But the self-revelation involved still goes against the grain, despite, or perhaps because of the publicity her successes have earned.

"I was asked to record my thoughts and feelings throughout the crossing. Of course it was a bit odd talking to a camera on my own at sea. That did take getting used to. But it was also difficult for me to

do because I wouldn't normally admit even to myself, when everything is getting a bit much. I didn't find it helpful to try to do that for the film. I don't feel better after a good cry, I feel worse. A few sniffs are quite enough otherwise I'll wallow in self pity and it will take me ages to get going again."

Here is the "seeing a thing through" kind of courage. Talking of her years at the Royal Ballet School her body says when she describes what it felt like to know that almost everyone there was a better dancer than herself. She stuck it out through "A" levels and went on to get an economics degree at University College, London. Then, as an apparently settled young business woman in marketing, she suddenly changed tack. "A group of us had talked of buying a boat

and sailing off for a year to see the world. The project went on from talk to action, until in the end, I was the only one acting and the only one going." She sailed the Atlantic single-handed for a bet and that was how Clare Francis, serious sailor, made her first headlines. Now she is heavily involved in the whirl of personality appearances she must make to capitalize on her achievements so far, and lay the foundations for future projects. For the Round the World Race she will need a bigger boat, sponsors, and a crew. The first person Clare Francis wants in that crew is her long-standing friend, and fellow yachtsman Jacques Redon.

Shona Crawford Poole
Come Hell or High Water, Pelham Books, £4.25.

Looking for Florence's lost Leonardo



The Battle of Anghiari: A copy by Rubens of a preliminary study by Leonardo

High on a tower of scaffolding in Florence's city hall, the Palazzo Vecchio, an Italian-American team of scientists and art experts are engaged in one of the most intriguing technological treasure hunts of modern times, the search for a lost Leonardo da Vinci mural.

The painting is the famous *Battle of Anghiari*, commissioned by the Florentine Republic to celebrate a victory over the Milanese in 1440. Leonardo started it in 1505 but later gave up, probably because the painting technique he used turned out badly.

Nevertheless, the incomplete painting, a group of violently clashing horses and men, was passionately admired in Florence over the following half century. Great painters, such as Raphael, had come to search for Leonardo's work, others, like Rubens, copied his sketches or cartoons. It is mentioned in historic records as one of the great sights, one letter writer urged a friend to go and see it "for it will seem a miraculous thing to visit".

Leonardo's cartoon is lost but an idea of the great scene he planned, centred on a struggle for possession of a standard, has been left by contemporary descriptions, his sketches—some of which are in Windsor and the British Museum—and copies.

In 1563 the great austere hall in which the work was remodelled on its present sumptuous sixteenth century lines by the architect Giorgio Vasari. The walls were covered with mediocre murals of Florentine victories painted by Vasari himself. What happened to the Leonardo? The records do not say.

Vasari was personally a great admirer of Leonardo's work, on the other hand he wrote once that the painting had been spoiled by a faulty technique. Vasari destroyed many works of art during his career, but he saved others, including a Giotto and a Massaccio simply by covering them up with a wall or plaster. Did he spare the Leonardo, too?

The idea of trying to find out was raised after workmen repairing the vast Salone del Cinquecento, as the hall is now called, found the original doors and windows under Vasari's plaster, filled in but intact. The suggestion was that if he simply covered up the windows he might have done the same with the Leonardo.

The challenge was taken up by Prof Henry Travers Newton of California University's art conservation laboratory. He formed a team with Prof John Asmus, a research physicist who specializes in the application of advanced technology to art problems, Dr Maurizio Seracini, a young Florentine studying the application of these techniques to medicine and Prof Carlo Pedretti, an art-historian and leading expert on Leonardo. All three are also from California University.

The team, financed by the Smithsonian Institute of Washington and the Samuel Kress Foundation of New York, are conducting their search with methods which would have been after Leonardo's own heart.

They are non-destructive. At present Prof Asmus, who is in charge of the technical side, is conducting a preliminary survey of the walls by sounding them with ultrasonic waves. These penetrate up to 27 centimetres into the wall and indicate on a complex equipment the density of the materials and the presence of any air holes underneath. In theory, at least, a day's work should detect the presence of elements not contained

elsewhere in the wall, such as minerals used in pigments. The team however is being realistic about its chances of success. Prof Pedretti has warned against excessive illusions about finding the Leonardo intact. Prof Asmus expects perhaps a few traces or fragments. In any case by the time their work is finished next autumn they should know for certain whether in fact the mural was destroyed or not. Even if it was, the search will have been a valuable experience in the use of advanced techniques in art and Italian conservationists are watching their work very closely.

If something of interest is found, the Florence authorities will have to decide whether to remove part or all the Vasari mural on top, take down the Leonardo and put the other back. Experience in the city years ago has shown that Italian art conservationists are able to remove and replace frescoes without damaging them or anyone knowing the difference afterwards.

Patricia Clough

Appointments Vacant also on pages 10 and 11

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Homes in towns or villages

As became increasingly evident in the latter part of last year, rising transport costs and similar considerations are intensifying interest in town or village houses where some degree of urban amenity is more readily available than in remote locations. They are popular with newcomers to an area and also to local people living a few miles out who still find their position inconvenient. In a new year in which the prospects for the general property market are on the gloomy side this type of property may prove to be one of the bright spots.

No location is perfect and one disadvantage often found with town or village houses is lack of an adequate garden and no garage. What is unusual about Stour House, at Blandford Forum, Dorset, only a few yards from the centre of the town, is that it has a really good-sized garden and a double garage. The house dates from the early part of the eighteenth century and has the well proportioned rooms of its period. There are three reception rooms and seven bedrooms; the gardens and grounds total about 2½ acres with a frontage to the Stour and include a private island of about an acre reached by a footbridge. There is fishing both from the shore and from the island. Besides the large garage there are also a garden room, greenhouse and a former stable block. The property is for sale at a price of about £45,000 through Savills.

The same agents are dealing with a similar property with a smaller but well garden. Also with Georgian origins, Dunloe House, close to Fordington Green, is within walking distance of the centre of the town. There are three reception rooms, including a sitting room on the first floor, and five bedrooms. There is also a garage block and the price is £39,500.

Slightly smaller is 55 East St. Helen's Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, an eighteenth-century terrace house only some 25 yards from the Thames. Accommodation includes a dining hall, living room, two bedrooms on the first floor and two more with dormer windows on the second. There is a small paved garden and the possibility of extending a garage. The price is £25,000. Also through Savills, Buckle and Ballard, of Oxford, West House, at South Hill, Droxford, Hampshire, is a



Stour House, Blandford Forum, Dorset: asking price around £45,000 which includes a private island.

good eighteenth-century village house with an unusual amount of accommodation. Construction is of brick with a parapet and sash windows. Under a roof of old tiles. The main part of the house, on two floors, provides a dining hall, drawing room, study and four bedrooms. In addition there is a self-contained annexe, also on two floors, which has two sitting rooms and two bedrooms. There are two adjoining garages, and the garden is mainly walled. In all there are about three quarters of an acre. The price is £44,500 and the agents are Pearsons, of Andover.

An interesting property for sale in Cornwall is the Mill House, in the village of New Mill, about three miles from Penzance. The property, which dates from the seventeenth century, has a grade two listing, and is one of the few remaining mill houses in west Cornwall. Built of stone, it has been little altered over the years except for modernization. It is now one house and not the original two cottages. It has two reception rooms, one with a beamed and paneled ceiling, and five bedrooms. Outside, the mill house has an L-shaped garden of 2½ acres, and includes the restored water wheel, 15ft in diameter, operated by the mill. The house is for sale at a price of £30,000. The agents are John Lewington and Co., of Penzance.

In Surrey, Wadlams, in High Street Green, Chiddingfold, is believed to date back to the late fifteenth century and to be one of the few remaining glassmaker's cottages in the south of England. It has a tiled roof and a large chimney. The house is for sale at a price of £25,000. The agents are John Lewington and Co., of Penzance.

Extensive accommodation is also provided by The Manor House, at Church Stowe, Northamptonshire, an interesting mixed-period property. The original part dates from the sixteenth century but was altered in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Further modernization is required but there are two main reception rooms and three bedrooms, as well as two attic rooms. Grounds of about 2½ acres include a large range of outbuildings. Offers over £40,000 are being asked. The agents are David Henson, of Northampton. Further land is available if required.

Good, luxurious bungalows often fetch high prices and a figure close to £75,000 has been realized in the sale of one called The Garden, at Hurley, near Maidenhead. The house was built in 1920 and is a three-bedroomed property. It has a large garden and a swimming pool. The price is £75,000. The agents are John Lewington and Co., of Penzance.

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Lord Caradon on Palestine's case for a state on the West Bank of Jordan

Why the Palestinians see the Holy City as a gateway to peace

Forty years on, the mongrel still barking at Labour's left

Tribune is 40 today. Luckily the very independent weekly of the Labour left, which has outlived almost all other magazines that have been launched in this country committed to propagating democratic socialism, shows no signs of growing up and becoming middle-aged. It is still youthfully exuberant, incorrigibly opinionated and quarrelsome, and engagingly convinced of its correctness, where other less visionary magazines have had their ardour damped by journalistic arteriosclerosis, or falling circulations, or the harsh compromises of practical politics. The character of *Tribune* is that of a untidy mongrel crossed between a gadfly, a watchdog, and a beller, trying to buzz, buzz, and bark the Labour Party into the left-hand lane to socialism.

Tribune was born in January, 1937, at a time of economic crisis and unemployment, having been conceived in the previous year after the disastrous Labour Party Conference of 1936. Stafford Cripps, Aneurin Bevan, Harold Laski, Ellen Wilkinson, and George Strauss, aided and abetted by Colman and John Strachey, planned a new weekly which would be a mouthpiece and megaphone of the militant Labour left. Its first statement of policy declared that it stood for changing the world system that was no longer compatible with either democracy or peace: "We must change it, swiftly, for if we wait, the initiative will be in the hands of those to whom neither democracy nor peace is an ideal charged with meaning. The world system that is destroying hope in the world is capitalism."

Democratically marching on

Forty years on, undaunted by the unconceivable longevity of capitalism and some disappointments of socialism, *Tribune* marches on, bloody-minded, but unbowed and essentially democratic. The magazine, which prefers to call itself a paper, still defines its role as to attack the ills that afflict our society; to attack the forces that create and maintain those ills; to dissent from orthodox, discredited measures that seek to alleviate rather than cure; to fight for what it believes to be the true answers to humanity's problems, answers that lie in the bedrock of democracy and socialism. Its vocabulary has always been bellicose.

The editors and columnists of *Tribune* form a little army of usurers and warriors of the left, from Nye Bevan and Jennie Lee to Raymond Postgate, Michael Foot, and George Orwell, who was literary editor and one of many distinguished literary contributors. Its battle honours constitute a roll-call of

the fiercest political controversies of the past 40 years. In 1942 *Tribune* published the first of the attacks made on Churchill during the war, characterizing him as "the head of the least successful War Administration in Britain for 270 years".

In the 1950s *Tribune* and the *Left Review* were the only magazines to see what they saw as the socialist soul of the Labour Party. During the cold war it was strongly anti-Stalinist and even pro-American in its honourable long devotion to democracy and hatred of dictatorship. Vehemently pro-CND and in favour of independence for all the old colonies of the old empires, it vehemently opposed the Vietnam War and "this monumental swindle called the Common Market". *Tribune* sees the world in simple black and white, and is always happier in opposition, when there is a Tory Government in power. Its traditional spirit of attack and dissent seems uncomfortably close to heresy and disloyalty to some Labour politicians in power.

Heads proudly in the clouds

Tribune has a long populist tradition of proclaiming power to the people in a paper that is largely read by the intelligent. Aneurin Bevan put it in his memoirs: "We shall show how the inefficiency of British industry, the failure of our military intelligence, the flatfootedness of the Army command, the debility of our propaganda to enemy countries, and the shortcomings of our grand strategy are due, in one form or another, to the fact that Britain is still controlled by those who think, either consciously or unconsciously, that ordinary men and women are there to be governed and not to govern." Dick Clements, who has edited *Tribune* for the past 16 years, says: "We have our heads proudly in the clouds when we preach socialist idealism, but we have our feet very firmly on the ground when we argue about how we will achieve the transition from our present economic society to the sort of democratic socialism we want to see."

Tribune is celebrating its fortieth birthday with an anthology and history called *Tribune 40*, and with a special supplement about its history published with today's paper. Only a few *Tribune* old boys have ever won their First XI caps: Bevan, Crossman, and the present Lord President of the Council. Its causes never wholly triumph. But the voice of the passionate and ever-youthful *Tribune* of the people continues to enliven, enrich, and influence the national debate.

Philip Howard

"Please, nothing too ostentatious," she protested.

"Even diamonds can be discreet," I smiled, handing her the small, leather-bound box.

She opened it.

Inside, the watch gleamed softly. A tiny masterpiece of the art of Audemars Piguet.

A simple shape in pure white gold, adorned only with diamonds.

Diamonds framed the face. Were actually set into the minuscule hands.

As she reached out to pick up the watch, they reflected and refracted laser-like points of light.

She slipped it onto her wrist and fastened the delicately woven strap.

"I'll never be late again," she said, her eyes sparkling like the diamonds themselves.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 72 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.

Of all the crowded impressions from weeks of discussions in the Middle East one main conclusion is clearest of all. The Palestinians want a state of their own on the West Bank of Jordan. They long for a homeland in which they can take their own decisions and shape their own destiny and regain their self respect by practical, constructive endeavour.

On this there is surprising unanimity—I say surprising because in the past there have been so many disputes and divisions in the Arab world. But now—and this is in striking contrast to a year ago when I last toured in the Middle East—I found among the Palestinians no dissenting voice.

The new state should be established on the territories to be recovered from the Israeli occupation on the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem. This, as I say, is now the firm and clear claim of all the Palestinians I met.

It was reiterated in every West Bank town and village I visited. And the aim is accepted by the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Yasser Arafat in a recent interview confirmed the earlier PLO policy: "We are prepared to establish an independent regime in any territory we liberate or from which Israel withdraws."

And when I saw Khaled Fahum, President of the PLO Council, in Damascus he fully endorsed the Palestinian demand.

So out of the delays and divisions of the past nine years there has emerged among the Palestinians a clear and positive and urgent purpose.

Two factors in this new situation should be specially emphasized.

First, Arab Jerusalem must be included in the new state of Palestine. Saudi Arabia has always given top importance to the recovery of Jerusalem. I saw President Sadat when he was particularly emphatic that no Arab could accept that Arab Jerusalem should be under Arab administration. Without Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem there can never be peace.

So the concept gains ground that the shared city of Jerusalem should be a new relationship of equality and mutual respect and understanding. The noble conception is that the Holy City should become not a barrier but a gateway to peace.

There is a second factor of the greatest importance arising from the aim of an independent Palestinian state.

It is that the Palestinians of the West Bank increasingly realize that their new Palestinian state can emerge and thrive only if those who form and lead it work in the closest and friendliest cooperation with their neighbours and specially with Jordan.

In meeting after meeting in the towns of the West Bank the Palestinians emphasized that the small state of Palestine must depend on the economic and political assistance of the Arab world, including particularly their Arab brothers on the other side of the river. Palestine, they begin to believe, can become not a cause of dispute but a proud centre of Arab unity and cooperation.

So now that the Palestinians agree on what they want, what support can they expect from the Arab governments? President Sadat put an independent Palestine state as one of the main objects to be pursued at the Geneva Conference. Both in Damascus and Beirut I was told in the foreign ministries the clearest terms that they are equally in support.

King Hussein long ago made his position plain when he said: "Israel has stated that it will not tolerate an independent state in Palestine or the West Bank. They have become determined supporters of the terms of Security Council

They long for a homeland in which they take their own decisions and shape their own destiny and regain their self respect

take that decision save the Palestinians themselves."

When I saw the King in Amman he fully confirmed the Palestinian attitude he had taken. The Palestinians know very well they need Jordan's continuing generous assistance. They are assured that they will get it.

Moreover, international backing for the object of a Palestine state is overwhelming. Nine members of the European Community have declared that an end of Israel's territorial occupation following the 1967 war will give nothing away to settlement, and recently nearly a hundred nations in the United Nations General Assembly have supported the call for an independent Palestine state.

What of the attitude of the Israelis? As usual, I was courteously received in the Israeli Foreign Ministry but I certainly did not expect any new statement of policy. I have always understood, and respected, the Israeli attitude that they will give nothing away until they see in negotiation what they are to get in terms of recognition and security.

But the importance of the new Palestinian purpose is, I am sure, not lost on the Israeli Government. They have become determined supporters of the terms of Security Council

Resolution 242, and the Palestinian initiative is clearly in conformity with the two basic principles of that resolution, "the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war" and the right of every state in the area "to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats and acts of force".

Moreover I met again some of the brave and outspoken Israelis who have been openly advocating the necessity of understanding and agreement with the Palestinians, and they tell me that their ideas make good progress in Israeli public opinion. It was good too to talk again with Teddy Kolek, the indefatigable Mayor of Jerusalem, who takes special pride in working for better relations with the Arabs.

It is no longer looked upon as a wildly idealistic conception that the security of Israel and the peace of the whole Middle East must depend not on arms or on territory or on the domination of one side over the other but on agreement, and on peaceful coexistence, with Palestinians too having a right to self-determination and security in their own homeland.

I like to quote what Abba Eban, then the Israeli Secretary of State, said at the Geneva Conference in 1973: "The

ultimate guarantee in a peace agreement lies in the creation of common regional interests in such degree of intensity, in such multiplicity of inter-action, in such entanglement of reciprocal advantage, in such accessibility of human contact, as to put the possibility of future war beyond national contingency."

The immediate obstacle is the question of how the Palestinians should be represented at the Geneva Conference. There are half a dozen ways of getting over this procedural difficulty, several of them under discussion now, but it is increasingly recognized that to have a Middle East conference and to exclude the Palestinians would be the height of arrogant absurdity. Moreover, Khaled Fahum of the PLO in Damascus told me that the PLO is now directing its efforts to making the Palestine National Council as widely representative of all Palestinians as possible.

So if the new purpose is supported by the Palestinians and the Arab governments directly concerned and most of the nations of the world, and if Israel could from this enterprise obtain the security and peace which it needs at least as badly as the Arabs, what hope is there that the Geneva Conference will soon convene and get down to the hard detailed work—on boundaries and guarantees and demilitarized zones and return of refugees and Jerusalem, among other difficult but negotiable questions to be settled?

In spite of all the favourable factors, with the Lebanese civil war ended, Arab governments in accord, a new President in the United States, and such wide support for convening the Geneva Conference, I am bound to say that I feel no easy optimism.

The policies of divide and delay which have dominated the past nine years are still in force. I feel the need to urge for positive action. And while the drift continues the

situation on the ground grows rapidly much worse. A seizure of land and the creation of encirclement of Jerusalem proceed apace. Scarce a month passes without announcement about compulsory land acquisition and Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. They stand right across the path of new hopes for the future: not to pursue complaints at the past, but it was impossible to avoid the harsh facts and bitter reactions of the occupation. When I was in Nablu, under military curfew, I was in Hebron the town was in protest strike. Demonstrations by schoolchildren followed by arrests and fines (as much as ten thousand Israeli pounds in some cases on the parents).

In the streets as well as the meeting places I was with complainants about imprisonment, exiling, house arrest, refusal to allow freedom of political organization.

The occupation of Arab land by force has gone on much longer. Now there is a protest and a real hope that this occupation could be ended in a

If this opportunity is lost believe that all concerned, peace and bloodshed, devastation and human suffering too vast to imagine. We must pray that 1977 will be the year of the peace, peace internationally achieved and guaranteed, with Eban playing its full part in a concerted and urgent international endeavour, and, as I am greatly hoping, the United Kingdom again taking the lead.

Lord Caradon, who returned from an extensive tour in the Middle East, served Palestine and Trans-Jordan in the days of the British Mandate, was much concerned with the Middle East when he was British Minister at the United Nations from 1964 to 1970.

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Bernard Levin

'Tis a soul-destroying business, to be sure

A Mrs Nadia Shorten, described as a wealthy American widow (she will soon be less wealthy, for reasons which will become apparent in the course of these remarks), has made it clear that she is interested in the transmigration of souls, partly at least because her own soul has undergone a number of such passages from one body to another, including those of a priest of ancient Egypt, a Red Indian squaw and a tiger. (And also, presumably, a wealthy American widow.) Her theory about souls in transit is that they do not simply flit from an expiring host to a nascent one; they tend to be about in a disembodied state until, under the appropriate stimulus, they re-assemble themselves (I have an image, probably absurd, of the reconstructed soul, shaking itself like a dog which has just emerged from a pond) and enter the new fleshy home.

Mrs. Shorten, feeling that souls could well do with some encouragement towards putting themselves together, has decided to set up an institution in which the souls in passage may rest and recuperate after leaving the body which has until then housed them, rather as battle-weary soldiers, withdrawn from the line for a refit, are sent to a camp far in the rear, where they may recover their energy and enthusiasm before returning to the fray. To this end, she is in the market for a suitable house in the West of Ireland, for the purchase and equipping of which she has set aside the sum of £50,000.

Something tells me that suitable houses may prove more numerous, in those parts, than she has supposed even in her most sanguine moments.

Shakespeare attributed to Pythagoras (not altogether unjustly, as a matter of fact) the belief that the soul of one's grandmamma might happily inhabit a hedgehog, and that with such authority behind her Mrs Shorten is entitled to argue that her own soul has made a number of previous appearances; from that, it is only reasonable for her to proceed to the assumption that other souls are similarly in a continuous state of passage from corporeal existence to corporeal existence. Certainly, if she is familiar with the well-known truth of physics that matter is ultimately indestructible, however many metamorphoses it may undergo, she could resort to that as a basis for her theory, not less likely to be true of souls. And if it is, or even if she firmly believes it to be (as she clearly does), it is not altogether illogical for her to believe that souls may be in need of temporary sojourn between permanent reappearances. What more reasonable, in those circumstances, than that one who is herself possessed of a soul that has repeatedly been in precisely that situation should be eager to provide wandering souls with board and lodging?

What indeed. But I am not here to make mock of Mrs Shorten's beliefs. I am, on the contrary, come along to say that, although I do not share them, I defend her right to hold them without being taken to

the cleaners by every chancer in the West of Ireland—a part of the world where chambers of every description abound in prodigious quantities, together with sundry sweet-talkers, con-men, pocket-lighters, coney-catchers, look-movers, gull-guilers, jay-stuffers, sucker-pluckers and fully 90 other varieties of those whose business is the parting, by whatever means presents itself to their imagination, of fools from their money.

I have no doubt that from one end of Galway to the other, including the area where I once went fishing for salmon and caught an eel instead, companies are at this moment being registered by the score, with the aim and purpose of providing houses for errant souls, and that those in charge of the fortunes of the companies in question are sending to Mrs Shorten, by bulk mailing, lists of hundreds of suitable establishments, together with tenders for all the goods and equipment required to furnish them. No matter that the houses, almost without exception, will exist only in the imagination of those trying to sell them to Mrs Shorten. In she, after all, who is in the business of accommodating souls in need of a short-term doss-house, her correspondents being single-mindedly engaged on another activity altogether, to wit, getting their bread into a gravy. In these hard times, ladies with 50 grand to throw around do not exactly grow on bushes, and I dare say that when the news penetrates

to other parts of Ireland, they will be running excursion trains from Kilkenny full of the Little People—these being notoriously well equipped with bread suitable for mopping up gravy—and charabancs from Dublin full of those old biddies who have hitherto eked out a precarious existence by falling over in front of parked cars just as the drivers start the engines and claiming to have been knocked down. Indeed, there is a verse of Dominic Behan that will fit the situation without the slightest emendation:

Some of them came from Dublin,
Some of them came from Clare;
Some of them came from Antrim,
From Wicklow and Kildare;
Some they came from London,
Glasgow and New York.
But the best of all our soldiers
Were the boys of the County Cork.

Not only that; of those hastening from afar to the feast, there will be some, honey-tongued, beyond the ordinary, who will be assuring Mrs Shorten that they are in a position to offer her not only adequate lodging for stray souls but job-lots of the souls themselves, all carefully selected. Grate the Jews, for the essential signs of virtue and ready for re-assembling the moment the money is handed over. Indeed, it is not difficult to envisage a kind of soul-auction, with the rival claims of vendors being expressed with increasing enthusiasm and vehemence until the Garda have to be called to restore order, whereas the most honey-tongued of all will presumably

take the Inspector aside and of to cut him in on the lot in return for an official assurance from him to Mrs S that only the souls offered by his patron are genuine, and that all alternative sources of supply could be safely ignored.

The chief characteristic of a soul after all, is that it is invisible, intangible, to be seen only by eye of faith and heard only by ear of conviction. The philanthropist in this case is clearly pre-disposed, say the least, to the belief that it is about to become the landlady of a community of souls, and is predispositions, we know, are powerful aids to the imagination. It is true that in this instance the imagination being aided will not be only, even mainly, hers; but the res needs very little imagination envisage.

It's nothing to do with me, real money, or who induces her to part with it. I am only concerned to ensure that she should have as much protection as her generous nature and deeply-held convictions would lead her to expect. I should happen to read these lines, let her know them constituting only the friendliest, a most disinterested of warning. Though she might also care to act that, by an extraordinary series of coincidences, I happen to be the legal owner of Brookllyn Bridge, and will be happy to sell it to her for a reasonable price—say £50,000. Upon my soul I would.

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The Times Diary

Pushing the boat out for 1977

If you are attracted by the thought of escaping winter gloom, economic ills and inflation on a world cruise aboard a luxury liner, I am sorry to say you have missed the boat. The P & O flagship *Canberra* sailed from Southampton on Wednesday night, for the only world cruise leaving a British port this year. Robin Young was there to see her off.

Photographers were clamouring for passengers to celebrate their departure with popping corks and brimming champagne glasses. The passengers, many of them veterans of several such trips and many cruises, were more interested in showing the stewards how to find the right cabins. "I swear this one's never been on the boat before," grunted a Lancashire woman showing briskly at a little brown man strutting with her three large cases. "I know the layout of the ship, far better than he does."

There was, anyway, not a lot of champagne to spare for jollifications before the ship left port. Only 3,000 bottles had been taken on board to last the voyage, rather less than a trip for a day. For the 200 passengers who would be taking the 86-day trip round the world, living splendours was in even more scant supply. A spokesman for P & O described the quantity of caviar onboard as insignificant. "These are not the sort of people who can stomach a lot of wine and rich foods," he explained.

The most eagerly awaited passengers were Mr and Mrs Evans from Jersey who were paying £7,171 each for cabin C69. This was to be the Evans' eighth world cruise, and a very few reporters waited outside their cabin door.

When Evans arrived, though, he had little time to talk to

reporters, and what he did have to say bore a hint of bad news for P & O. "I booked the top cabin for this trip before leaving for the last trip," he said, "but so far I have not booked again. Perhaps I will, but there is just a nagging doubt in my mind that we may not really be getting value for money."

"It is costing us about £15,000, but there are people down below who are getting the same main room facilities and the same food for just over £1,000, and they tend to grab all the best seats at the cabarets, you know."

In the bottom of the ship, in the cheapest fourth berth cabins costing £1,187 per person, including food and drink, the introductions and grandmotherly reunions were going on. Gwen Williams, from Cheshire, and Iris Davies, from Cardiff, first met on the *Canberra's* 1969 cruise, and had booked to share their neighbour, Ena Stevenson, a retired headmistress, had been on the 1975 cruise, too.

Of course there are lots of familiar faces. One of the ladies, "You get to know every body down here where we have to rub along pretty close to each other, but it's all we can afford. Cruises are very expensive, so we come back again and again."

Len Stuckey, the advertising and promotions manager for P & O Cruises, estimated that some 10 per cent of the passengers would have been on world cruises before.

Cruising is almost exclusively a pensioners' pleasure. All the

passengers I met were elderly, and five were confined to wheelchairs, but I was told that there were four children under 12 on the passenger list. They have a hostess and a palatial playroom all to themselves, as well as the prospect of a "Coke-cellar" party with the captain which will obviously be the most exclusive social event of the voyage.

Nico Gardener, a former bridge champion and tutor of the game for this cruise as he has been for 81 cruises before, told me: "The big sports on board are art, bridge and ballroom dancing. There are swimming pools, of course, a little backgammon and chess, but few people have energy for things like deck tennis."

The passengers will be making shore excursions from their 21 ports of call. Almost a third are taking a trip into Communist China from Hongkong (Shanghai), and smaller groups will be flying to Japan, or travelling overseas via Bangkok to Singapore at greater expense. Some of the crew, though, told me they would not go ashore at all. "We've seen it all before," said a barman, "and with the pound like it is at the moment you can't go anywhere on my £33 a week."

More boats

Those who have missed P & O's boat can always get one of their own, and many with just that in mind went to the first day of the Boat Show at Earls Court yesterday. For the price

of the top suite on the *Canberra* you could buy quite a decent little vessel, though not perhaps one that would go round the world.

Boat builders are coy about displaying prices, but they seemed to range from £30,000 for the most elaborate yachts, to little more than £1,000 for smaller vessels with cosy names like "Dunfintin". Serious buyers were busy measuring the seats to see whether their families would fit, and asking impenetrable technical questions. They were younger than the world cruisers, but just as rich.

The centrepiece of the show is what purports to be a mock-up, at least a symbolic one, of Brighton Marina, that controversial project which, after years of local squabbling, expects to receive its first boats this year. Around a small pond in the centre hall are a group of Regency-style stands which are not at all like what is actually going to be built alongside the marina, but which are supposed to give the impression of Regency Brighton. If the impression is accurate, then the marina consists largely of banks, marine finance houses and places that sell Guinness.

The marine people gave a champagne party by the pond, with financial reporters sniffing around and asking their own brand of probing questions. On a stage projecting into the water, a slickly produced fashion show got under way, displaying rainwear, sports clothes, bathing suits and drum majorette costumes in shiny red, blue and silver.

The fashion show was followed by a display by the Royal Marines which I had already seen during the summer at Brockwell Park Lido, and then there was some comedy diving which made many people wet. I left, musing that

Actually I wanted an audition as a news-rendery



Brighton comes to Earls Court is a slogan only marginally less attractive than Brighton.

Shining

Those of us who cannot afford to take to the water, have to make do with the buses. This year, as a special treat to celebrate the jubilee, we shall be able to ride in style in silver buses, and one of them was launched outside County Hall in London yesterday.

The irony is that though the silver jubilee bus was the idea of London Transport, the vehicle in question was not one

of theirs. London's silver buses will not be launched until Easter. The vehicles belong to the National Bus Company and will ply in and around East Grinstead, in distant Sussex.

J. H. Nunneley, managing director of British Transport Advertising, who handles advertising for the national, was shortling at the launch. He had stolen over London Transport. He Lord Ponsonby, chairman of the Greater London Council, took it in good part, saying he was "proud and happy" to perform the official launching ceremony.

Although it was advertised as a champagne launching, the bottle Ponsonby smashed over the bus's hub cap was a cheap one, backfired cruelly when one of the bottles exploded in the face of a representative of the electrical company sponsoring the bus, injuring him quite badly.

Two young women were in attendance, dressed in clothe said to date from 1952, but which were hardly distinguishable from clothes of today. I do not remember women in 1952 leaving so many from buttons unfastened. I plan to them to slip into silver bikini en route was abandoned because of the weather.

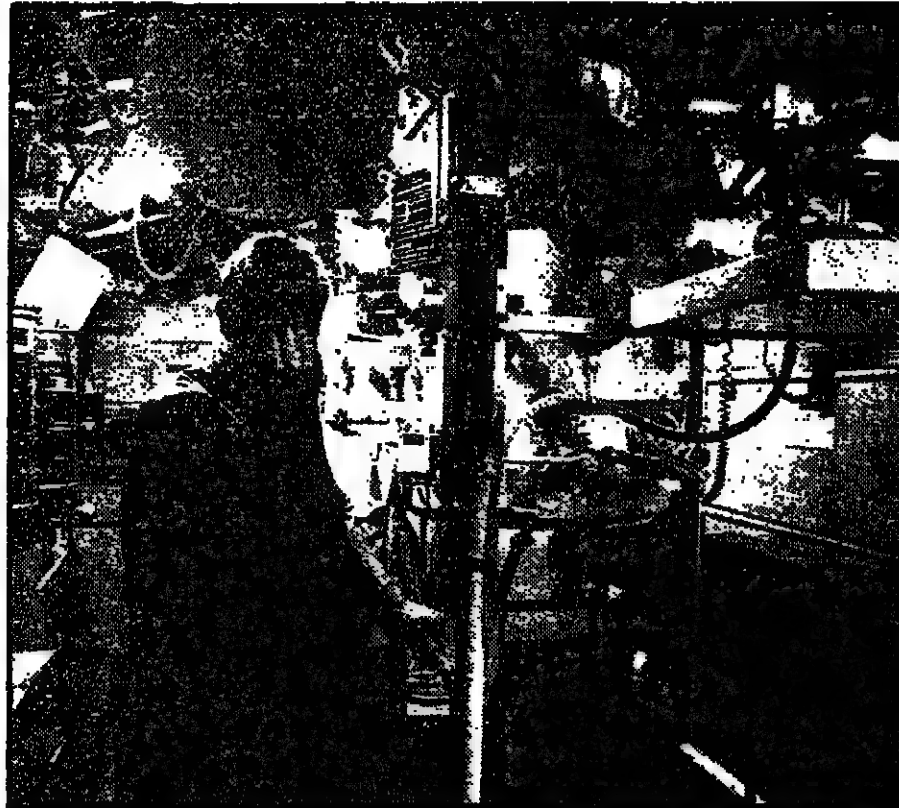
Lambeth Council take the pessimistic view. One of their press announcements states: "Whilst the recent Viking space probe to Mars did not find any big eyed monsters it was able to establish that some form of life was possible on the Red Planet. But is there intelligent life anywhere else in our universe? Go to West Norwood before 31 January and you may get an answer." I went to West Norwood once, and I do not hold out much hope.

PHS

مكتبة من الأصل

Royal Navy

a Special Report on Britain's senior Service examining striking power, missiles, air capability and morale



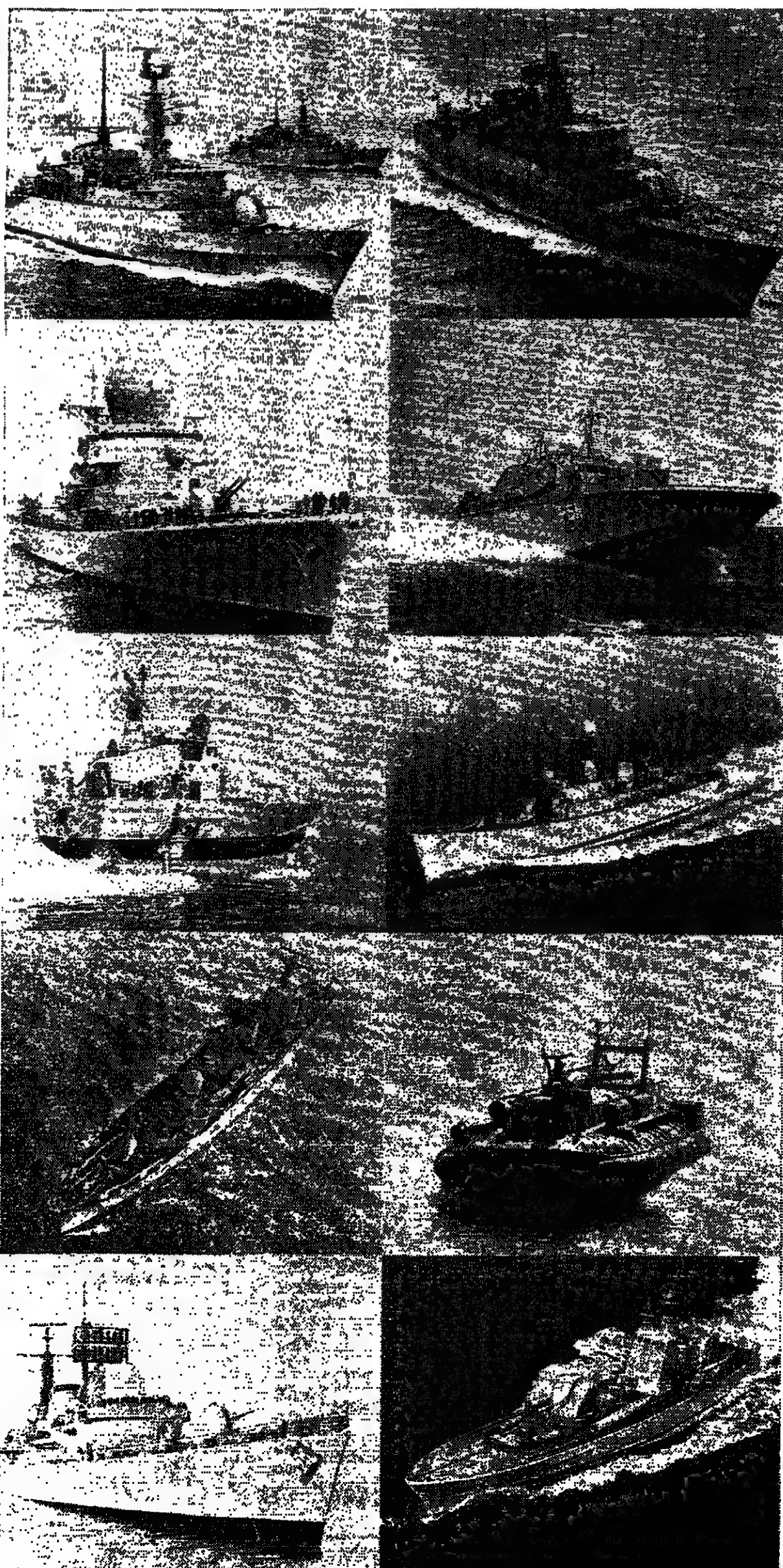
The nuclear submarine Sovereign provides for the maximum comfort of a crew of 120 operating to a high standard. Senior ratings have their own wardroom and crew members off watch catch up on sleep in the 50-berth cabins or eat from a varied menu. Half the crew is on duty at any one time.



Michael Abrahams



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Sea Power

Thin blue line contracts but is still flexible

by Henry Stanhope

At the start of 1977 the Royal Navy is still the largest and most ubiquitous navy in Western Europe. It is a long way behind the navies of the United States and the Soviet Union, and in manpower and in the number of craft, is substantially smaller than the Chinese Navy, too. But it is still an important influence on maritime affairs. Seventy fleets of varying aspirations still send their ships and sailors to these offshore islands to be trained according to a tradition which began with Alfred the Great. Its fleet is still balanced, with 31 submarines (four Polaris, nine hunter/killers and 18 diesel-electric), about 65 frigates/destroyers and five larger warships including one aircraft-carrier, the Ark Royal, which will soon begin its last voyage, to the breaker's yard. But even the Fleet Air Arm will retain its interest in fixed-wing aircraft power when the Sea Harrier joins first HMS Hermes, then the three new Invincible-class anti-submarine cruisers at the end of the decade.

The Navy had at the last count 64,660 men and nearly 4,000 women. A shortage of experienced leading ratings and certain categories of officers, notably engineers and aircrew, testify to receding problems which have persisted on and off since the days of the press gang. However, a current surge to the recruiting offices—not entirely unconnected with high civilian unemployment rates in Britain—suggests that these shortages should be repaired in a few years' time. Three out of every four ratings begin their career as junior sailors at the shore-based training establishment HMS Raleigh.

Morale is surprisingly high if only because of defence cuts—namely the 1975 Defence Review, in 1975 which diminished naval manpower by 5,000. Surprising also perhaps, because it is Navy whose horizons have been steadily shrinking since the heady days of Empire, it is not so long ago that the thin blue line wound round the Far and Middle East, and ships cruised round the West Indies like amekippers patrolling their rounds. Now only a handful of patrol boats at Hongkong and a frigate at Gibraltar remain. For most sailors, for most of the time, the world as becomes the eastern Atlantic.

On the other hand, the impression of the sailor's world has been only relative. Two task groups a year usually steam away to warmer waters—ideally one to the Indian Ocean and the Far East, another to the West Indies. Uncertainties in demand the presence of a frigate at most times in Central American waters, and others find an outlet for their global pretensions in Nato exercises in the Mediterranean from time to time.

The Royal Navy is too small. It is certainly smaller than the Sea Lords would like, given their not inconsiderable commitments. For instance the number of anti-submarine task groups that the Royal Navy can now find for patrolling the sea lanes in the eastern Atlantic is limited to three—two at sea at any one time while the third is in port refitting or taking on supplies. Ideally there should be one more to provide a better guarantee that up to 400 million tons of ammunition could be shifted over the Atlantic for troops in Europe in the event of war.

The United States Navy could supervise the transit of supplies as far as the Western Approaches. But it would be up to the Royal Navy and its Western European allies, with their mine counter measures ships and smaller, diesel-electric submarines which would have to clear the way for the supply ships through the shallow waters of the Channel. The United States Navy is simply not equipped for that kind of shallow-water work.

The Royal Navy believes that morale depends to a large extent upon the quantity and quality of the ships that are procured. At present there are three of the new Type-22 frigates on order, along with nine Type-42 Sheffield-class destroyers and all the Type-21 Amazon-class frigates. But the Navy needs to build at the rate of 2.7 frigates/destroyers a year to maintain its force at the desired level.

The orders rate slowed down as a result of the 1974-75 Defence Review, and although it has since picked up again it is still some way behind the desired annual 2.7. Meanwhile the programme for building nuclear-powered attack submarines, at the rate of one every 15 to 18 months, is continuing and the Royal Navy is aiming at 16 of them eventually in service.

One restriction on building ships is the availability of cash and another is ship-building capacity. Building warships is a highly specialised business and naval policy has been to concentrate on a few yards which can then be encouraged to build up this special knowledge. Even so it is difficult to keep a yard's labour force occupied by an even flow of work. What the Royal Navy would like to do is to give a shipbuilder a batch of orders to keep him occupied over a period of years, which would mean continuity in his workforce and more economy all round.

One of the most important decisions during the next few years concerns the procurement of a new class of conventional diesel-electric submarines, to replace first the Porpoise class and then the Oberon. The Royal Navy is by and large satisfied with the nuclear-powered submarine programme. But nuclear submarines, while fast and capable of long endurance under water, are also noisy and rather large to navigate some of the shallower waters round Britain's coasts. A report is already in circulation in the Ministry of Defence setting out the possible requirement for a new class of smaller, conventional craft.

Although his horizons have come gradually nearer during the past few years, the British sailor can still expect to spend two thirds of his early years in the Royal Navy at sea. A young officer must resign himself to being on sea-going appointments for about eight of his first 13 years in the service—although the ratios are almost exactly reversed after that. Even so, the Royal Navy has no trouble in finding volunteers for overseas travel. Scarcity value has added an extra gloss to the idea of deep blue water and tropical sunshine.

The extension of Britain's fishing limits and the burgeoning offshore oil and gas industry in the North Sea have added a new and not entirely desirable dimension to the Royal Navy's role. On the one hand it keeps the service in the public eye and reminds the electorate that the Royal Navy is not a luxury, left over from the days when Britain could afford such things. On the other hand it means that the Royal Navy has to divert some of its resources when those resources are already fully stretched in patrolling the eastern Atlantic sea lanes, and showing the flag in those more distant waters where Britain has trading interests.

But the Royal Navy still makes a unique contribution to Nato. Allies who may complain about any diminution in the British contribution to the alliance's central front in Germany or to the reinforcements of the southern flank, often forget the maritime contribution that Britain makes. No other country, except perhaps France, is in a position to make it. The West Germans would need years in which to build up the kind of navy and the kind of experience needed for operations in the North Atlantic after the hiatus since the Second World War. The French meanwhile are concentrating on Mediterranean operations, filling the gap left by Britain's own departure.

The Royal Navy's world may have shrunk. But in that world the White Ensign still flutters bravely enough. Whether it flutters from enough ships is another matter.

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

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British Limbless
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'GIVE TO THOSE WHO
GAVE—PLEASE'

by Henry Stanhope

Britain no longer rules the waves, not even some of them; she can only help to ensure that nobody else does either. The Royal Navy still provides 70 per cent of Nato forces in the eastern Atlantic, which stretches from the east coast of Greenland to the western shores of Norway. In recognition of this, the only important Nato command to be held by a non-American is the Allied Command Channel, which belongs to Britain's Commander-in-Chief Fleet in his underground bunker at Northwood, Middlesex, more than a telescope's range from the sea.

At any one time the White Ensign still flutters from 40 warships of frigate size and above, 20 submarines and 50 smaller craft in the region, together with their supply vessels from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. With 60 per cent of the world's maritime trade crossing the North Atlantic and more than 120 ships discharging three

million tons of cargo daily in the ports of western Europe, it would be difficult to argue that the Government has got its priorities wrong. Whether Nato's combined efforts are enough is another matter.

In wartime 90 per cent of the transatlantic supplies on which the forces in Western Europe would depend would come by sea. Studies are being made of ways to reduce this dependence. One solution could be to make greater provision for the use of civil aircraft and another might be to preposition more stocks—in the Norwegian fjords for example. But the effects are likely to be marginal, and the integrity of the North Atlantic sea lanes remains an imperative.

Nato enjoys one great advantage, which is that ships from the Soviet Union's powerful Northern Fleet are funnelled through the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) gap on their passage from Murmansk to the North Atlantic. On the other hand the Soviet Union's minimal dependence on strategic

imports allows the Russian Navy to be wholly offensive rather than defensive, in a conventional war.

At present the Northern Fleet has about twice as many surface ships as Nato in the eastern Atlantic. 17 times the number of allied submarines and one and half times as many aircraft. There are infinite arguments over the relative strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet Navy, in terms of quantity and quality. But the North Atlantic is so crucial to Nato strategy that any threat to its security is a knife aimed at one's jugular vein.

The most obvious threat is that posed by the submarine, partly because of its very nature and partly because of the underwater mine in the Soviet Navy, with about 340 submarines afloat, more than 140 of them nuclear-powered, and a new nuclear-powered boat sliding off the dockyard ways every five weeks. Of the Western European Nato navies, only Britain with nine nuclear attack submarines in commission—apart from its Polaris boats—and a pro-

gramme target of 16, belong to the same league—and even Britain only just qualifies.

The Soviet Union believes and Nato will neither confirm nor deny, that a chain of some devices spans the GIUK gap, to monitor submarines from the Northern Fleet as they slip into the open Atlantic. But as Soviet warships now travel the globe under Russian blue water strategy, the Northern Fleet would probably make sure it has drawn all the submarines it needs through the GIUK funnel before any hostilities started. To close the GIUK gap, difficult enough in itself, would be like shutting the stable door after the horse had bolted.

The whole concept of a defensive screen to protect convoys chugging across the Atlantic in wartime has had to be amended with the increased range of modern weapons—like the Russian SSN-3 cruise missile whose range varies between 300 and 450 miles. Moreover a tightly controlled convoy which might have huddled together

for strength in the last war, would be vulnerable to nuclear attack.

Defence in depth is the overriding factor in the North Atlantic. The picture is three dimensional, with maritime reconnaissance aircraft flown by the RAF carrying out long-range patrols, and Sea King and Wessex-3 anti-submarine helicopters, sent from Royal Navy warships, "dunking" their sonar listening devices into the thermal layers of the North Atlantic to trap the enemy hunter-killer submarines, before launching their torpedoes.

Because two, and preferably three, helicopters are needed to fix the position of the submarine, it is not only cheaper but tactically desirable to put helicopters to sea in groups—as on the new invisible class of anti-submarine cruisers, or on HMS Hermes and for the time being on the more elderly, constricted decks of helicopter cruisers like Tiger and Blake.

A typical task force, briefed to sweep the sea

lanes clear for a convoy of vital supplies, might include an anti-submarine cruiser like the invisible, a couple of Type-42 Sheffield Class destroyers with their Sea Dart missiles for area air defence, one or two nuclear-powered attack submarines armed with their own, probably passive sonar, and eventually the Sub-Harpoon missile, and several frigates adding a mixture of Sea Wolf anti-missile missiles, Exocet anti-ship missiles, Ikara anti-submarine missiles and 4.5in guns.

Slow-moving merchant ships would still need escorting across the Atlantic, if in rather different formation from those of the Second World War. But faster armed merchantmen could conceivably make the voyage on their own along a route periodically "cleared" by a task force on the lookout for enemy marauders.

The Royal Navy has remained among the leading navies of the world in the difficult science of anti-submarine warfare. But ASW scientists have not yet found

the breakthrough which would bring a decisive advantage to the defence. Active sonar which bounces a signal off the target submarine cannot reach more than an estimated 10 miles or so, and only as far as that in good conditions. Passive sonar which involves listening to the other boat's noise "signature" can extend much farther but cannot determine the other boat's range. The balance of advantage still lies with the fast, long-endurance nuclear powered submarines which dash in to make its kill, then slip away at high speed before the defending navy can establish a "fix" and retaliate.

In one sense this benefits the strategic balance, by enabling the ballistic missile submarine to deter any superpower which hankers after first-strike capability. In another sense it provides the Royal Navy with its most pressing, most enduring difficulty. He who rules the waves in the North Atlantic could be he who rules beneath them.

More to be done at home

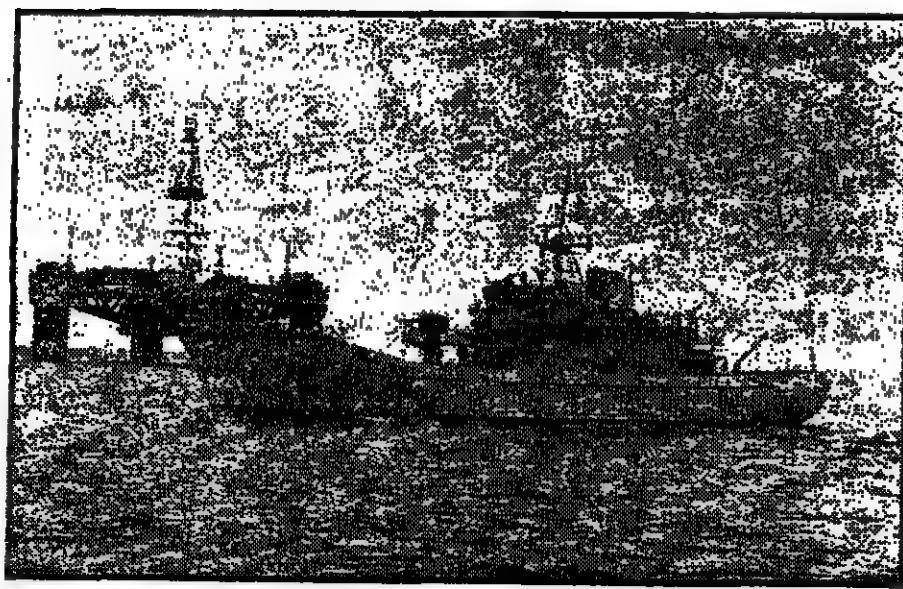
by Captain John Moore

The past 30 years have brought a surprising increase in the tasks facing the maritime forces employed around the coasts of Britain. In pre-war years the main concern was fishery protection. Since peace-time hostilities started in Greece in 1946 there has been a rising flood of jobs to be done.

The arrival of giant tankers has increased the risk of pollution beyond the belief of 15 years ago and has multiplied the hydrographer's requirements enormously. Repressive activities in certain Commonwealth countries have brought a surge of illegal immigrants. High prices and quick profits have expanded the scope of the smugglers. The discovery of large oil and gas fields has produced a great crop of rigs in various areas, some close to and some distant from our shores.

These are but a few of the maritime problems now facing our planners behind them all lurks the sinister prospect of international terrorism, financed by such states as Libya, Iraq and the Soviet Union.

These are some of the tasks which now face the Government. Add to them



HMS Jersey passes through Kirkcaldy Bay, Fife, on her way to protection duty in the North Sea.

the problems of search and rescue for both air and surface accidents, the control of shipping in confined waters, the discharge and dumping of refuse, the possibility of industrial action and unrest on rigs, collision and fire on the same rigs, the manifold problems presented by wrecks, the reappearance of wartime mines and the possibility of sabotage in the ships and the use of mines and time-bombs extending

from the shore to harbour areas outside close coastal and riverine waters would fall on the Royal Navy. At a time when successive defence cuts have seriously eroded the Navy's numbers it is worth considering not only what is available for such tasks but what would improve this situation.

Last October, Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, complained that criticism of defence cuts were "too in emotion but short in facts". The facts are simple—the active fleet now comprises one aircraft carrier, two helicopter cruisers, eight light cruisers, two destroyers, 58 frigates (some in various stages of refit), four ballistic missile submarines, nine fleet submarines, 19 patrol submarines, one assault ship, one helicopter support ship (RFA), 28 minesweepers and minehunters (MCMVs) with a support ship and eight RNR sweepers, two offshore patrol craft, five modified minesweepers in Hongkong, three unarmoured fast training boats and one fast target craft, four survey ships, four coastal survey vessels and five inshore surveying craft.

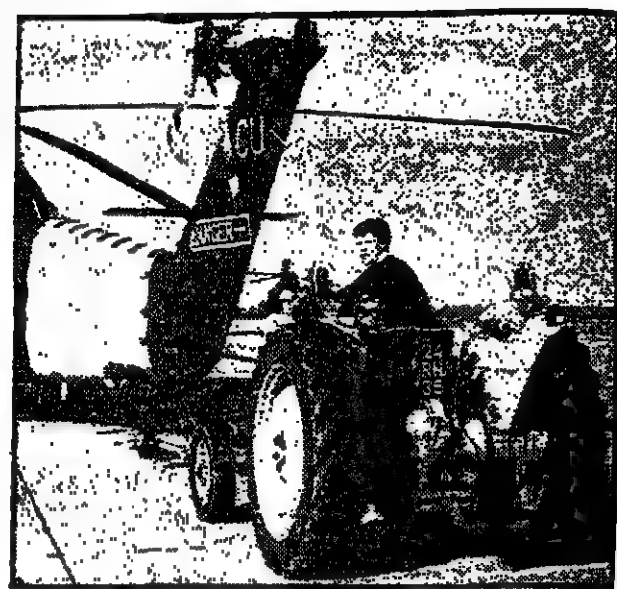
Future programmes include helicopter cruisers, destroyers, frigates, fleet submarines, mine counter measures vessels and the remainder of the offshore and patrol craft. Most of these are designed for fleet operations. Only the MCMVs, training boats and patrol craft are suited for operations such as have been discussed.

In which she serves

by Penny Symon

The three women's Services celebrate their diamond jubilee this year, and the Women's Royal Naval Service will be the subject of an exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, Former Wrens will be asked to lend mementoes of their days in the Service for the exhibition, which is expected to be open for about six months.

The WRNS came into being in 1917, with Dame Katharine Furze as director, and was disbanded two years later. The women took on such jobs as wireless telegraphy, coding and cyphering, as well as clerical and domestic duties and driving. At the end of the First World War the strength of the corps was 4,821.



One of the few Wren air mechanics who are tractor drivers.

In August 1938 the Admiralty Board decided that there was a need for women to assist the Navy as a separate corps, and to be organized on a civilian basis. In April 1939 it was announced that a corps to be known as the Women's Royal Naval Service was to be formed. It would replace Naval officers and men on certain duties in time of war.

Until war did break out, Wrens were recruited but lived in their own homes and attended a prescribed number of weekly drills at Chatham, Portsmouth, Devonport and Rosyth. On September 3, 1939, there were about a thousand of those "immobile" Wrens employed in communications, driving, cooking, writing and as stewards. Permission was then obtained for the recruitment of officers and ratings to serve in various parts of Britain.

The Service expanded in 1941 and 1942 and work categories were introduced covering the wide range of tasks carried out by aircraft, weapons and small craft. The first WRNS draft, consisting of 20 chief Wren wireless operators and a second officer, sailed for Singapore in 1941 and others were sent to Washington and Gibraltar.

In 1942 Wrens were drafted to Alexandria, as well as the Middle and Far East. In 1944, the total force was 74,620, but it was reduced at the end of the war. In 1949, the Service became an integral and permanent part of the Naval Service.

Surprisingly, there was a waiting list to join in war time. One former Wren, who had been waiting to join for four months in 1943, was told at her interview that there were very few vacancies, but that a gardener was needed at the training establishment at Mill Hill.

Weeding the flowerbeds did not fit in with her plans for life on the ocean wave. The alternative was for her to be a cook. This was also declined, and finally the interviewing officer found a vacancy in wireless telegraphy, as long as she could prove that she was mechanically minded and able to mend a puncture on a bicycle tyre satisfied that requirement.

She was posted to what was then Ceylon, which resembled a Hollywood film set for an 18-year-old who had never been east of Felixstowe. Demobilization came two years later, and she handed over her uniform without emotion.

"I felt nothing until it came to my hat. That dear little pancake hat with its silk taily band; it has suited me so well, made me feel bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and I believe that it was because of that little hat that I had joined the WRNS in the first place," she recalls.

The affection for the Service, the opportunities for travel, even in the present financial circumstances, as well as the waiting list, remain.

About 6,500 women applied to join in the recruiting year beginning April 1975, and 5,500 have already done so in this one, which ends next April. The average waiting time is about three months, and as only about 300 new entries are required each year, the selection process is stringent.

There are now 250 officers and 3,000 ratings in the Service.

Integration with the Navy. The WRNS officers' training course, which had been at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, since 1939, has just moved to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, which already provides the naval training for midshipmen, graduates, entry officers, aircrew, doctors, dentists, chaplains, and QARNNS nursing sisters.

Officers are drawn from three sources: ratings selected for promotion, cadets Wrens who enter with two A levels and serve for a year as ratings before selection for officer training, and direct entrants with a degree or comparable qualification.

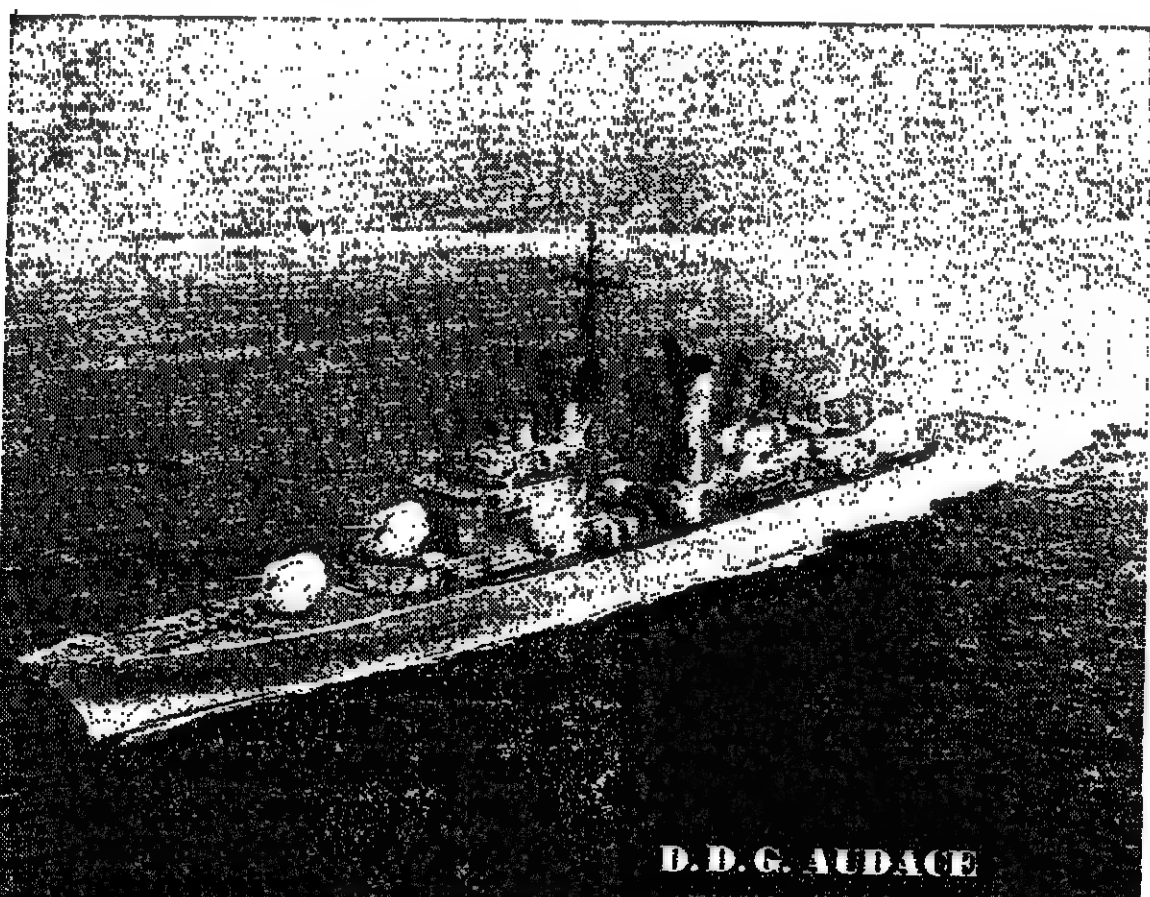
New entry training for ratings, now at Burghfield, near Reading, will move to HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall, in 1980, where the women will work alongside new Naval ratings.

Commandant Vonda Brice, who was appointed Director of the WRNS in August this year, is not in favour of total integration with the Navy which, in any case, would not happen because all the women's services within Nato countries are non-combatant.

"There is a great deal of valuable work that we can do ashore, and I am happy with the progress that is being made, although there is some way to go yet," she says. "We have a happy relationship with the Navy, which regards us with affection and as something special. If we went all out for total equality, I think that would be spoiled. The Navy appreciates the work we do but treats us as 'women'."

Miss McBride says that the range of jobs available is very wide, and appeals to every type of girl.

"Girls are trained alongside the men, and there are still opportunities for wet overseas. Our pay compares favourably with that of the men, and an increasing number of women are making the Service their career. It is an attractive life."



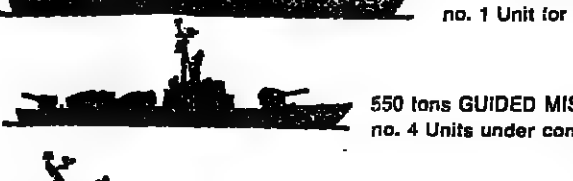
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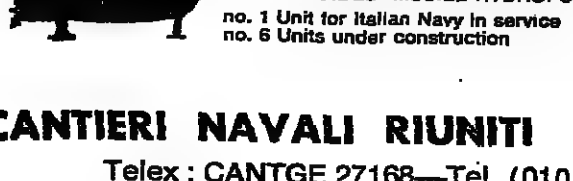
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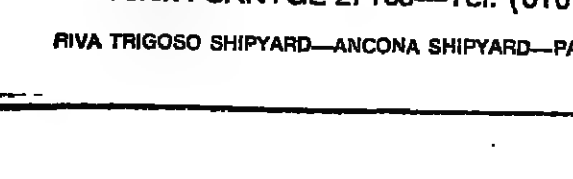
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The author is editor, Jane's Fighting Ships.

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هكذا من الأصل

Swing-winging into a new era

by Arthur Reed

Aviation in the Royal Navy is in a period of important change, but with the arrival of the Sea Harrier it should, by the 1980s, be completely reformed and well able to continue playing its part in controlling the approaches to the Atlantic from the Baltic.

The period of change could be said to have begun in the middle 1960s with a government decision to phase out aircraft carriers. It then looked as if fixed-wing aircraft had no future in the Royal Navy, but their role was reversed by the decision to order the through-deck cruiser, and the Sea Harrier.

The normal number of Sea Harriers in each of the three new types of ship which the Navy expects to have will be five, as well as helicopter carriers, one of which will be a helicopter carrier, which is to be brought out of reserve for anti-submarine duties.

With the retirement of Ark Royal, the Navy's first carrier, the Navy will now benefit from the development which it merited years ago, and that service in its hands will open the sales door for this remarkable aircraft to numerous foreign customers, in particular the United States Navy, which has a requirement for several hundred. Among the interesting uses for the Sea Harrier now being explored is a "ski-jump" from the end of a ship's deck to give better performance, greater safety and an improved payload.

While the Sea Harrier is the most important new aircraft being introduced, the Navy is not allowing it to overshadow its helicopter fleet.

Soviet long-range reconnaissance aircraft. It will have a number of other roles, including reconnaissance, and ship-attack using Stand-off missiles.

The Navy emphasises that it is not seeking to do the RAF's job with the Harrier. There are occasions, however, when ships are out in the deep water of the north Atlantic and are well out of range of land-based defensive aircraft.

The RAF will figure large during the introductory phase of the Sea Harrier. Royal Navy aircrew will be trained by the junior service to conversion to vertical/short takeoff and landing, and RAF pilots will be in the first naval squadrons to be formed.

Sea Harriers are based on the GR3 version of the Harrier which the RAF has had in service for almost 10 years. Adaptation to a naval role has been fairly cheap, consisting mainly of raising and redesigning the cockpit to give better visibility for operations from heaving decks, changing the avionics to be compatible with the attack role of the RAF to sea defence, and modifying the undercarriage and other parts.

Opinion in the Royal Navy is that the Harrier will now benefit from the development which it merited years ago, and that service in its hands will open the sales door for this remarkable aircraft to numerous foreign customers, in particular the United States Navy, which has a requirement for several hundred. Among the interesting uses for the Sea Harrier now being explored is a "ski-jump" from the end of a ship's deck to give better performance, greater safety and an improved payload.

While the Sea Harrier is the most important new aircraft being introduced, the Navy is not allowing it to overshadow its helicopter fleet.



The Westland Navy Lynx, which carries four BAC Sea Skua missiles for use against surface ships.

craft being introduced, the Navy is not allowing it to overshadow its helicopter fleet. The main Royal Navy rotary wing types are the Westland Sea King and the Westland Lynx. Both of which have an important anti-submarine warfare role. Sea Kings have been in service for some years, but the Lynx is a new comer, with the first of the 60 on order now at the extensive flying trials unit at Yeovilton in preparation for the first aircraft flight going to sea at the end of 1977.

Total sales of the Navy type of Lynx are 113, the other buyers being Holland, France, Brazil and Argentina. Other Nato countries which are considering taking it into their inventory are West Germany, Norway and Denmark, and the Royal Navy believes that it will receive future contracts to teach partner countries to fly and operate it. Dutch naval officers and ratings are already undergoing Royal Navy Lynx courses in Britain.

Both the Lynx and the big improved capability against submarines and fast patrol boats. A system of sonar buoys to complement the Lynx, now being introduced, is expected to make the Navy's helicopter operations against submarines even more effective.

The author is Air Correspondent, The Times.

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are the ones that don't show

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Quality if not quantity

by Captain Roger Villar

The year 1966 saw the end of the Navy's plans for more aircraft carriers. To a fleet which had built its whole being around the carrier— for strike, for defence against aircraft, for anti-submarine warfare—the cut was to the very root of its structure. A radical reappraisal was essential.

It took two years to evolve an alternative plan. It had to be a long-term plan if only because of the 10 to 15 years needed to develop new weapons to replace the carrier's lost abilities. It had to be a balanced plan to cover all aspects of naval war. And it had to be flexible to match advancing and accelerating technology.

The Navy is in the middle of its new 20-year plan. It has some remarkable weapons. Not all of it comes from Britain, because it is useful to share the development cost with others when this may amount to £100m or more. But British developments are well to the fore.

To replace the lost long-range strike ability of the carriers, which had a tremendous advantage in keeping an enemy at a distance where his own weapons may be ineffective, come anti-submarine missiles. The French ship-launched Exocet, which reaches to 40 kilometres, is already at sea. Although it is no way matches the lost carriers or the over-the-horizon Russian missile, it is a first step. To match the Russians, two steps are planned. First, to cooperate with Nato in

their development of a longer-range missile. Second, to take advantage of what is there, the Navy will use the American 50-mile Harpoon missile, which can be launched from a submerged submarine.

But it is not enough merely to match the Russians. If they are to be deterred, they must be outdone. The Sea Skua missile being developed for firing from the Lynx helicopter will enable enemy ships to be threatened at the very limit of the helicopter's range. It gives long-range offensive ability to the many ships that can carry a helicopter.

For defence against the missiles which form today's threat more than aircraft, the Navy plans a defence in depth with a variety of equipment of which defensive missiles are the main components.

The Seadart missile is the medium-range defensive

system. It is the most modern of its kind and is at sea in the Sheffield class destroyers. It forms the first line in a defence in depth and can also cover, to some extent, other ships in close company.

Backing this up is the Sea Wolf short-range defensive missile system, a world-beater which can engage targets as small as a 4.5 in shell travelling at twice the speed of sound. No other system with its anti-missile capability has even begun to be developed elsewhere.

Anti-submarine warfare is covered by a host of equipment reaching out to greater and greater ranges to give the same defence in depth as is needed in the missile defence systems. At short range come surface ships with two new hull sonars and the American mark 46 homing torpedo, which will be replaced by new British torpedoes now being de-

veloped. The Ikara anti-submarine missile system reaches out to some 10 miles. Helicopters—the Lynx with homing torpedoes and the Seaking mark 2 with a new weapon system under consideration—will go far further out. Nuclear submarines with two completely new sonars and the Tigerfish torpedo will operate in company with the surface fleet.

Anti-submarine warfare is perhaps the most secretive of the lot. There is no doubt that important developments are going on. Equally there is no doubt that the Navy will not talk about them.

So, with all this the Royal Navy is today up with the Navy in terms of quality. It will soon have the Harrier aircraft at sea. It is going in for offensive mining after a virtual drop-out since the last war and its new mine counter-measures vessel will have the largest glass fibre hull in the world. Soon it

will start to investigate and prove, will not be at sea with the fleet for another five years.

It is becoming the custom to carry out defence reviews. Three reductions were announced in 1973, another in April, 1974. The defence estimates for 1975 made major cuts for every year up to 1984, and the Chancellor added to these in his budget statement. In 1976 there were three further reductions. The total announced since May 1973 is about £9,000m.

There is one man who should know the Navy's future, the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff. All planning for the fleet of the future and the present is his responsibility. Asked where the Navy stood today, he replied: "Really on the bone."

The author is naval adviser to the British Aircraft Corporation (Guided Weapons Division).

Marines lose their place in the sun

As the Royal Marines march past to "A Life on the Ocean Wave" these days, they must reflect that the ocean is not as broad nor their life on it as long as once it seemed. No other branch of the Armed Ser-

vices, except perhaps the RAF Transport fleet, has suffered more obviously from the financial and philosophical constraints which have characterized British defence policy during the past decade. The Govern-

ment's 1974-75 Defence Review was preceded even by some newspaper speculation that the Royal Marines were about to be unceremoniously abolished. This never seemed very likely, but it indicates the preoccupations of the past few years.

In the event the Government decided to reduce the corps from its present strength of more than 7,700 to a new establishment of 6,865. The reduction will be found mainly by phasing out 41 Commando, one of four Commando groups—each of which has about 700 men—or between 800 and 900 when the artillery and engineering components are added. Troops of 41 Commando will start to leave their sunny posting in Malta next April, leaving behind a reinforced company of about 200 men who will remain until Britain ends its historic presence in Malta—and almost ends it in the Mediterranean, too—in 1979.

Thus the loss of 41 Commando reflects another reduction in British commitments and is, on paper, sensible enough. Whether it is sensible to make such economies in a corps which has been so well recruited and so highly regarded, is another matter.

Like the rest of Britain's forces—and more so than most—the Marines have had to adjust to a new world order. All the Commando forces will henceforth be committed to Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (Saclant) in wartime, for deployment in support of the alliance's maritime strategy. In theory this covers a wide range of reinforcement options, covering the defence of Atlantic islands from Greenland and Iceland in the north to the Azores in the south. In practice it applies particularly to Britain's own offshore islands, to Denmark and to Norway—and probably also to the Faroes in wartime, although, because of Danish sensitivities, no one likes to talk too much about that.

It is in Norway that the Commandos' "overseas" training is now concentrated—partly because this is where allied forces could find themselves under most pressure in the event of Soviet aggression in the

north—and partly because the conditions in northern Norway and the life of the land of the fjords are skills which can only be acquired with care and some pain.

The corps' most famous snowmen are the Marines in 45 Commando, based in Arbroath, who are fully trained and equipped to fight on skis and over-snow vehicles, and to survive mid-winter conditions inside the Arctic Circle. Now as a result of concessions made to Nato after the howl of anguish which greeted the Defence Review, 42 Commando and a small tactical headquarters will also be ready to fight in the Norwegian winter—although on snowshoes rather than skis and with a less impressive range of equipment.

On the one hand the Government has awarded the Commando a more closely defined purpose in life. On the other it has taken away some of its means of fulfilling it. Of the two Royal Navy Commando carriers, Hermes and Bulwark, the Hermes has been transformed into an anti-submarine cruiser with its Commando-carrying role retained only as a secondary function, while the elderly Bulwark is maintained in a state of "preservation by operation" at Portsmouth—a kind of half-life which resembles that of a family car laid up during a hard winter. Meanwhile only one of the two assault ships, Fearless, and Intrepid—which carry the Marines' heavy equipment—is being kept in a state of operational readiness, while the other is kept in a state of care and maintenance, or refit.

If an emergency occurred during the next year or two, these craft could be reactivated. But there are no plans to replace them, and the Commando meanwhile have to share six logistic landing ships with the Army and to examine a range of options for transporting themselves and their equipment across the North Sea, including the use of civil merchantmen and roll-on ferries or aircraft like the RAF Hercules. An alternative which would help Saclant hugely would be for Norway to agree to the prepositioning

of equipment on Norwegian soil. The Norwegians have stoutly resisted this option ever since the formation of Nato, but there have recently been signs that they are ready to change their minds.

One of the least publicized developments of the past few years has been the winning of Royal Marine Commandos with their counterparts in Holland. "W" or Whiskey company of the Dutch Marines' 756 strong Amphibious Combat Group is closely affiliated to 45 Commando—to such an extent that Royal Marines even train their allies in Dutch—and vice-versa. Another company from the Dutch AG is now about to link up on exercises as if it were an additional British company.

The United States Marines too are looking more closely at the ability of their troops to fight in Norway in winter. In wartime the British and Dutch commandos would make a "quick dash" over the North Sea, with the American Marines following, perhaps two weeks later. But the British and Dutch, for all their considerable skills, would have their work cut out to help delay any Russian advance before their American reinforcements arrive.

Sea-going detachments, of about 22 Royal Marines in each, are still serving in six Tribal class and one Leander-class frigate, with two more in training for similar, more traditional marine duties on Royal Navy warships next year. But this role, part of the gunboat diplomacy which once helped to win them retain an empire, has gone, along with that empire into decline.

On the other hand the growth of British offshore interests in the North Sea has endowed the corps with yet another *raison d'être*—one which applies particularly to the 91-strong Special Boat Section (SBS) whose undercover, underwater skills are highly relevant to the defence of isolated oil platforms. To the Marines there seems plenty for them to do. Like the Royal Navy they are more worried by the fear that they may not always be given the means to do it.

H. S.

Plessey Marine is the principal sonar contractor to the Royal Navy—and to navies around the world.

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King George's Fund for Sailors looks after them all

In this Country of ours, there is no-one who is not connected with the sea.

Half the food we eat comes from across the sea. Many thousands of us, our relatives or friends are past or present members of one of the sea-faring services, or of an industry dependent on them.

There are many charities for seafarers and their families. One, only one, however, is the central charity, charged with collecting and providing funds for all other seafarers' charities, and with making sure that the money is distributed where it can be of most use.

That central charity is King George's Fund for Sailors. Launched in 1917 at His Majesty's personal wish, KGFS distributes funds without distinction of service, of rank or of creed. The sole criterion is to distribute the money to the areas of greatest need.

When you want to remember our seafarers who are in need, remember King George's Fund for Sailors. We'll see to it that not one penny of your money goes to waste.

Please send your donation to:-

KGFS
King George's Fund for Sailors
1 Chesham St., London SW1X 8NF

THE FUND FOR CHARITIES THAT SUPPORT SEAFARERS IN NEED AND THEIR FAMILIES

Before we make up our minds about you, come and see what you think of us.



We thought we'd take advantage of this Special Report on the Royal Navy to tell you something about the acquaint visits that will be available to school and university students during the year.

These visits, which range in duration from one to five days, are designed to give you a fair picture of what you can expect from a career as an Officer in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines and what we shall expect from you as an Officer. There will be a number of opportunities to discuss naval life with young Officers in your own age group.

This year the programme includes visits to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, the major naval bases at Plymouth, Portsmouth and Rosyth, including time in Her Majesty's Ships, and the Royal Naval Air Stations at Culdrose, Cornwall and Yeovilton, Somerset.

Acquaint facilities have also been arranged at the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, near Exeter.

If you are selected for one of these visits we will, of course, pay your travelling expenses and provide accommodation where necessary.

As you have probably gathered from the surrounding articles, the modern Navy has considerably more to offer than 'a life on the ocean wave'. But this nonetheless remains the main feature of a naval career.

Today's Royal Navy is a highly efficient, tightly-knit, technically-based organisation. The modern technical skills that this demands must be combined with the personal attributes which have traditionally been required of Officers in the Royal Navy.

The demands made on today's Officers are

extremely high. Those who come up to the required standards, however, can look forward to a worthwhile and rewarding career.

If you are genuinely interested in a career as an Officer in the Royal Navy or the Royal Marines, and you'd like to take advantage of the acquaint scheme, or simply wish to have further information on Officer careers, please write to me, giving details of your age, school or university, and present or expected academic qualifications.

Officer Entry Section, (9GX1), Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

Michael Jarvis

NAVY
CAPTAIN



УКАЗАНИЕ 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 6: Today, being the Feast of Epiphany, Holy Communion was celebrated in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, when the customary offerings of gold, frankincense and myrror were made on behalf of the Queen by Captain Michael Tufnell, RN, and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Julian Paget, BT (Gentlemen Ushers to Her Majesty).
The Bishop of London (Dean of the Chapel Royal) officiated and the Queen's Bodyguard and the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Chapel.

The Hon Lady Wakefield gave birth to a son in Westminster Hospital on January 5.

Birthdays today

Vice-Admiral Sir John Collins, 79; Sir Gerald Durrell, 52; Sir Frederick Gibberd, 63; Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, 70; Sir John Gorton, 72; General Sir Gordon Macmillan, 80; Lord Ashby, 78; Sir Alicka, 78; Sir John Gorton, 72; Colonel Sir Eric St Johnston, 66; Sir Edgar Stephens, 76.

Marriage

Mr P. M. W. Seldon and Mrs M. J. Breakwell
The marriage took place on December 31 at Tunbridge Wells, between Mr P. M. W. Seldon, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Seldon, and Mrs Julie Breakwell, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lansdale.

Luncheon

Lord Mayor of Belfast
The Lord Mayor of Belfast was host yesterday at a new year luncheon in the City Hall, Belfast. The guests included the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Roy Mason, and the Secretary of State for the Home Office, Mr John Gorton. Other guests included the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Gorton, and the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Sir John Gorton.

Latest wills

Gift to law charity
Miss Margaret Catherine Audrey Woodhouse, of Highgate, London, died on January 5, 1977, leaving a will which left the residue to the Solicitors' Benevolent Association for a fund in memory of her husband.

Other estates include (not before duty paid: duty on some estates not disclosed):
Schwarz, Helene, of Rhos-on-Sea, died on January 5, 1977, leaving a will which left the residue to the Solicitors' Benevolent Association for a fund in memory of her husband.

James, Mr William Daniel, of Dingley, Northamptonshire, died on January 5, 1977, leaving a will which left the residue to the Solicitors' Benevolent Association for a fund in memory of her husband.

25 years ago

From The Times of Monday, Jan 7, 1952

Princess Pocahontas

The church of St George's, Gravesend, which was threatened with demolition, is to be preserved as a chapel of unity in memory of Princess Pocahontas who is buried there. A scheme has been approved by the Church Commissioners and the necessary authorisation by Order in Council is awaited. The church has been awarded as a building of historical and architectural interest and the final approval of the Royal Fine Art Commission is being sought for the plans for its preservation.

Latest appointments

Rear-Admiral J. H. F. Eberle to be promoted to vice-admiral on January 23, 1977, and be Chief of Fleet Support in succession to Admiral Sir Peter White, in April.
Group Captain R. A. Mason to be appointed Director of Defence Studies at RAF Staff College, Bracknell. The following to be members of the Genetic Manipulation Advisory Group: Dr D. Elwood, Microbiological Research, Harlow; Dr J. H. F. Eberle, Director of Defence Studies, Bracknell; Dr J. H. F. Eberle, Director of Defence Studies, Bracknell; Dr J. H. F. Eberle, Director of Defence Studies, Bracknell.

Nation of lawyers guards against abuse of personal files

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, Jan 6

The West German Interior Ministry has started work on a scheme to protect the citizen against misuse of files on him held by both public and private agencies.
At the end of last year the Data Protection Law completed its passage through Parliament. Government spokesmen claim that this statute will, when the bulk of its provisions come into force on January 1, 1978, put West Germany far ahead of the rest of the European Community in this field.

The law affords information on people kept not only in computer but also in the form of data storage equipment including the filing cabinet and the cardboard folder. Regulations are made governing the storage and use of filed personal information and the circumstances under which it can be communicated to others.

In the public sphere the law seeks to protect the confidence of private details held by agencies of the federal Government, the governments of the states and the municipal councils, including their police and tax authorities.

The first visible effect of the new law will be seen as early as July 1 this year, when a federal commissioner, who has yet to be appointed, takes office with the task of supervising the use of all files held by federal authorities.

This official, already variously nicknamed as "the computer ombudsman" or "Big Brother's big brother", will then have six months to organise his staff and his procedures. Because the task of supervising all the files of the country of 62 million people is regarded as far too much for one institution, state and local governments will also be required to appoint commissioners of their own.

In the private sector, firms above a certain size will be required to appoint data protection supervisors from among their own staff, who will in turn be supervised by authorities to be set up by the states. Company staff files are protected, as well as bank accounts and creditworthiness dossiers.

By January 1, 1979, agencies holding personal files will also be required to introduce technical and organisational measures to protect the information in their hands from abuse. The new law affords the private citizen the express right to demand information concerning what is kept on file about him, and where and how it is held, and to demand correction of false data. Illegally retained files must be destroyed on discovery. Files which have lost their purpose or have become too old to be useful must be sealed away or, by special request from their subject, destroyed altogether.

The Germans are often described as a nation of lawyers, and the national tendency to regulate all areas of life through the statute book sometimes creates more problems than it solves. The Data Protection Law is going to be very difficult to enforce, but when it is, it seems clear that it will enhance rather than inhibit individual civil rights.

But the need for such a law is arguably much greater in West Germany than in many other Western countries, because of the way the nation is run. An educated guess suggests there are files on me in the following places:

My local municipal council, where, like every other resident, I must register where I live and who lives with me, regardless of marital or other relationship;
The local tax office (income tax and car tax);
The county aliens' office (register of residents from other European Community countries) which issues my residence permit;
The local labour office (children's allowances);
The Federal Press Office, Bonn (as an accredited foreign correspondent);
The police of every West German state (10) and West Berlin (hotel registrations and, regrettably, in

a few cases parking or speeding offences);
The federal traffic records office in Flensburg (centralised register of vehicle details and aforementioned motoring offences);
The Bonn Public Order Office (driving licence);
County vehicle records office (car registration);
The federal Post Office (savings account, now closed);
The Federal Border Guard (immigration service records of arrivals and departures for foreigners abroad);
The Bonn office of the federal customs (record of personal possessions imported into West Germany);
The federal Parliament (visitor's permit);
The Public Health Office, Bonn (immunisations).

This list, which I am sure is incomplete, derives exclusively from the public sphere. There is no space even to start on the private institutions holding personal information about me. Exercising one's rights under the Data Protection Law could become a full-time occupation in itself.

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50 years of Atlantic commercial telephones

By Martin Huckerby
Mr Walter Gifford, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, wished "Good morning" to Mr and Mrs Gifford on the British Post Office, on January 7, 1927. In reply Mr Gifford said: "Good afternoon."

The confusion arose because Mr Gifford was in New York and Mr Gifford was in London. Their words marked the inauguration of the first commercial telephone line between Britain and the United States, and, like many calls since, Mr Gifford had forgotten the time difference.

Later today the Post Office will celebrate the jubilee of the service with a call retransmitting the original conversation.

In 1927 they sorted out the time difference and Mr Gifford, after observing in time-honoured fashion that it was cold in New York, was connected to Sir Evelyn Murray, the Postmaster General, at St Martin's-le-Grand. Congratulations were exchanged.

Then, in possibly the first of the commercial calls on the new wireless telephone system, Mr Gifford called Mr Gifford, editor of The Times, to discuss the photograph of the Atlantic crossing. He said it was thrilling to greet Mr Dawson in such a manner, and wished him a prosperous new year.

Not content with such formalities, The Times arranged a call in which its New York correspondent, Mr Gifford, called Mr Gifford, editor of The Times, to discuss the photograph of the Atlantic crossing. He said it was thrilling to greet Mr Dawson in such a manner, and wished him a prosperous new year.

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AIR VICE-MARSHAL SIR JOHN CORDINGLEY

RAF Benevolent Fund

Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Cordingley, KCB, KCVO, CBE, died on January 5 at the age of 86. He had been Director-General of Manning at the Air Ministry from 1939 to 1947 and after his retirement from the RAF was Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund for 15 years.
Born in Margate in 1890, John Walter Cordingley was educated at St John's School, Brighton, London, and joined the RNVR in 1905 as an Ordinary Seaman. He was discharged as a Chief Petty Officer in 1913 and re-joined after the outbreak of war in 1914 as a Chief Writer. He was commissioned as an Assistant Paymaster and when the RAF Benevolent Fund was formed in 1919 he was appointed its first permanent commission as a Squadron Leader in 1919.
He was Officer-in-Charge of Records, RAF, from 1922 to 1939 gaining promotion as far as Group Captain in that period. In 1939 he was appointed

MR EDWARD DAWES

Sir Dingle Foot writes:
Edward Whitfield Dawes, universally known among his wide circle of friends as "Dorry", who died on December 19, was one of the outstanding schoolmasters of his time. He was a brilliant teacher especially of history. But his influence extended far outside the classroom. He took the closest personal interest in his pupils both at school and in their later careers.

His own career had an exceptional beginning. As an undergraduate at London University he met J. H. Whitehouse, a Liberal Member of Parliament who had once been Parliamentary Private Secretary to Lloyd George but who during the war became the exponent of extreme pacifist views. Dorry sat in the House of Commons gallery during a series of parliamentary debates, where he himself had been educated, at the princely salary of £400 per year plus his keep. Lindisfarne was then privately owned but he succeeded in making it a public school.

He remained until 1963. His book *Memoirs of Lindisfarne* is a vivid account of both masters and boys and should be compulsory reading for all headmasters. In particular he describes the intake of German Jewish pupils during the days of Nazi persecution.
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Transatlantic yachtswoman opens 600-boat show

Miss Clare Francis, the Atlantic yachtswoman, opened the International Boat Show at Earls Court yesterday.
Standing in the middle of a Brighton marina display, the exhibition's centrepiece, the 100-ton motor yacht *Clare Francis*, she said: "I am certain I shall never do that again."

It had maintained its export record at 45 per cent and total turnover had reached £20m. She congratulated Britain's sailing and boating teams on their performance in last year's Olympic Games.
Miss Francis met the overall winner of the Great Western Observer transatlantic race, Lieutenant-Commander Geoffrey Bates, on board his boat, *Wild Rival*, and talked with members of the women's expedition to the Great

Arrato swamp in Colombia. The team of nine leaves in two weeks to film the swamp's wildlife, and search for a lost canal.
Miss Francis's plans do not include another Atlantic crossing. "I am certain I shall never do that again," she said, "but I hope to take part in the Whitbread Round-the-World Race as a helmsman."

More than 400 firms are exhibiting about 600 boats at the show, sponsored jointly by the Boat Express and the Ship and Boatbuilders' National Federation.
Mooring charges: The Duchy of Cornwall estates are to charge boat owners in the West Country £20 to £10 a year for their moorings. There is no charge at present.

Clare Francis, yachtswoman, page 9
Diary, page 13
Leading article, page 13

Covent Garden 'Tannhauser' revival scrapped

By Our Arts Reporter
The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, has abandoned plans for a revival of Wagner's opera *Tannhauser* because Jon Vickers, the Canadian tenor, has withdrawn from the title role. Instead, the opera house will present six performances of Verdi's *Otello* with Mr Vickers in the title role.

Mr Vickers, who lives in Bermuda, says in his letter: "It has always been essential for me to have a point of personal contact with the personality of each role I portray, so that my identification with the role I can bring the character to life on stage. I have failed completely to find and feel from which to begin."

The performances of *Otello* will take place on February 28 and on March 4, 8, 12, 16 and 19.

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MISS C. H. KING

Miss Hope King, who died on January 5 at the age of 77, joined the staff of The Times shortly after the outbreak of the First World War when she was 15 and retired in 1959 having served the company for over 44 years.

She was engaged as a shorthand-typist in the Advertisement Accounts department and was, if not the first, one of the first female clerical employees to be taken on by the company. By diligence, reliability and hard work she made her way upwards to become secretary to the managing director of The Times, Mr C. S. Kent and Mr Francis Matthews, both of whom had a high regard for her cheerful disposition, her efficiency and her resourcefulness.

Though she might have raised an eyebrow at the time, she was a good "company" woman, taking great pains in the engaging of new staff, easing their paths on arrival, playing tennis at Ravensbourne and, during the Second World War, writing long, newsy letters to Mr Peter Walker, as Secretary of the firm hand to girls serving in HM Forces.

Dom Duarte Nuno, Duke of Braganza, the pretender to the Portuguese throne, died in hospital in Lisbon on December 24. He was 69.

Decision on vaccine awards after commission's report

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent
A decision on paying compensation for children harmed by vaccine, particularly those who suffer brain damage after inoculation for whooping cough, will not be made until the Royal Commission on Civil Liberties reports later this year. However, the Department of Health and Social Security stated last night.

The compensation question has been raised by Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke on Trent, South, who is concerned about a small number of children who are adversely affected by inoculations. There is always a risk, particularly with a procedure using live organisms. Although whooping-cough vaccine contains killed bacilli it may give a high fever, sometimes leading to fits. Studies initiated by the department, however, have concluded that the risk is far outweighed by the benefit.

Many European countries have a system of automatic compensation for unforeseen cases of damage by vaccines.

US has fourth largest population

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Jan 6
As the new year dawned the United States had an estimated total population of 216,451,900, which was 1,600,000 greater than at the start of 1976, according to the US census bureau.

The new estimates show that in the past 12 months there were 3,100,000 births, 1,900,000 deaths and a net immigration of around 200,000. The country's population grew by 1,800,000 in 1976.

A recent world population report by the bureau, using estimated data for 1975, showed that the United States ranked fourth in the world in terms of population. Ahead were the Peoples Republic of China with a population of 740 million and India with 614 million and the Soviet Union with 234 million. Behind the United States came Indonesia with 139 million, Japan with 111 million and Brazil with 107 million.

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A recent world population report by the bureau, using estimated data for 1975, showed that the United States ranked fourth in the world in terms of population. Ahead were the Peoples Republic of China with a population of 740 million and India with 614 million and the Soviet Union with 234 million. Behind the United States came Indonesia with 139 million, Japan with 111 million and Brazil with 107 million.

The compensation question has been raised by Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke on Trent, South, who is concerned about a small number of children who are adversely affected by inoculations. There is always a risk, particularly with a procedure using live organisms. Although whooping-cough vaccine contains killed bacilli it may give a high fever, sometimes leading to fits. Studies initiated by the department, however, have concluded that the risk is far outweighed by the benefit.

Many European countries have a system of automatic compensation for unforeseen cases of damage by vaccines.

US has fourth largest population

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Jan 6
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
MANAGEMENT
IN
CONSTRUCTION

**The North-west:
Can self-help
be enough?**
page 17

CBI programme calls for target of 5pc inflation rate by mid-1978

Malcolm Brown, Secretary-General of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), yesterday called for a target of 5 per cent inflation by the middle of next year.

This is the priority of the CBI's programme for 1977, published yesterday. The programme, which is the first since 1974, calls for a 5 per cent inflation target by the middle of 1978, set as a target for the next few years.

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Mr Methven (left) and Lord Watkinson yesterday: warning of revolt over participation.

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Directors of Cable and Wireless end pay revolt

The five executive directors of the state-owned Cable and Wireless organization who have been refusing reelection to the board until their demands for higher remuneration are met have ended their unprecedented boardroom rebellion.

Last night both the Government and the nationalized concern were refusing to indicate whether their five-figure salaries are to be raised.

Both the Department of Industry and the wholly public-owned Cable and Wireless separately replied to an inquiry yesterday that the same terms, probably indicating the sensitivity about any peace formula on directorial salaries when all the nationalized industries are seeking better remuneration for their own board members.

GEC issuing £178m loan notes to shareholders in restructure plan

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
General Electric Company, a fierce opponent of the Government's dividend restraint policy, is to issue £178m worth of new floating rate capital notes to its shareholders under an eagerly-awaited capital reconstruction scheme.

Apart from those who hold less than 308 shares, who will receive an equivalent cash alternative—shareholders will receive 32½p nominal in capital notes repayable by 1986 for each ordinary share.

The new notes will be half yearly at 1 per cent point above the six-month interbank rate, which currently stands at about 13½ per cent.

But this huge issue of debt, which will significantly alter GEC's debt/equity ratio, will make only a marginal dent in the company's cash balances which amount to about £375m.

For by moving the £178m from its share premium account, now standing at £635m, the company is converting capital and reserves into debt.

Since December 8, when the company—formed in the late 1960s by the merging of GEC, Associated Electrical Industries and English Electric—said that it wished to restructure "so as to reflect more appropriately the interests of shareholders in its industrial and financial assets without limiting its flexibility with regard to capital investment", the stock market has been anxiously waiting for the scheme.

Last night, with GEC shares up by 8p to 181p, compared with 147p before news of the restructuring was given, dealers stopped trading in the stock until the scheme is published today.

Since 1969 shareholders' funds have risen from 67 per cent of capital employed to 86 per cent. Lord Nelson, chairman of the company, tells shareholders that the board feels this is an excessive proportion.

The effect of making the proposed issue to shareholders will be to reduce shareholders' funds to 66 per cent of capital employed.

At the same time GEC draws attention to its huge liquid resources which it says are well in excess of group requirements for the present. Lord Nelson says this arises from "better use of resources after the integration and reconstruction of the different companies which now comprise the group".

GEC recognizes that owing to monetary considerations it would be unlikely to be allowed to make substantial acquisitions in Britain, and it is already investing heavily in modernization and expansion of existing United Kingdom facilities, a policy that will be continued.

The emphasis, then, is on greater overseas activity both by stimulating exports, which are now running at an annual rate of £750m, against £466m last year, and by acquiring investment overseas.

But Lord Nelson points out: "Unlike its strongest competitors which are very active in expanding their worldwide bases, the company is effectively prevented from using cash resources surplus to its domestic needs for investment outside the United Kingdom."

"Some capital investments by way of creation of and

J & F B bid terms raised or Dunford

Johnson & Firth Brown has used its offer for Sheffield steelmaker Dunford & Elliott's newly issued convertible shares.

J & F B, which yesterday announced a 12½ per cent increase in its offer, has four of its own shares for every five Dunford shares.

The group is offering an equivalent price for the convertible shares. The terms value Dunford at £7m.

Strike will force total shutdown at Cammell Laird from today

By R. W. Shakespeare
All 4,000 workers at the Birkenhead shipyard of Cammell Laird on Merseyside are being laid off from this afternoon because of the continuing strike by 450 key workers, who are members of the Bolleymakers' Society.

The shutdown will stop all work on multi-million pound orders for 12 ships, including one naval missile destroyer and 11 bulk carriers.

The stoppage by the 450 piers and shipwrights began on Tuesday, when the yard reopened after a ten-day holiday shutdown. Management spokesman said last night that earlier hopes that the strikers

Bankers' optimism on sterling balances

By David Blake and Christopher Wilkins
Sales of Government stock went ahead sharply yesterday, spurred on by the near certainty that minimum lending rate would be cut by 1 per cent to 14 per cent. There was also a sale of a new variable interest Government bond to be announced later today.

There seems to have been heavy buying of the Government "tap" stock issued last week at 15½ per cent and dated 1986.

Some market estimates suggested that £400m may have been sold to the public this week, which when added to the £150m sold on the day of issue leaves only £200m in the hands of the Government Broker.

At present rates of sale, that could be soon exhausted.

Instead of replacing this with another fixed interest "tap", however, the Government is expected to introduce a new kind of bond for which the interest rate would fluctuate in line with the prevailing rate in the market. This move was originally planned for the week before Christmas but was postponed to avoid charges of gimmickry.

The move is in part a response to charges that the Government has been too resistant to innovation in the ways in which it sells its debt.

The authorities seem in doubt about just how much of the new variable interest bond they will sell, but raising a great deal of money does not seem to be the prime motive.

Launching a variable interest bond shows not only that the Government is prepared to experiment, but that it expects interest rates to move downwards.

Another small step in this downward road is expected to take place today when MLI is fixed. The Bank of England in

Heavy 'tap' sales on hope of MLR cut

Intervened in the money markets yesterday to indicate that it is still determined to see that falls in MLR are slow and gradual, at least during the early part of the year.

Yesterday's action was suggested that it wants the results of the Treasury bill tender, which fixes MLR by an automatic formula, to set the MLR rate securely at 14 per cent. Last week the Bank intervened to keep any fall in MLR, though the result of the bill tender left it teetering on the edge of its fourth drop from the high point of 15 per cent.

Throughout the early part of this week all the market forces have been signalling a further MLR fall, and the Bank's action yesterday was generally seen as acquiescing in a small drop this week while preventing the rate from falling the 1 point which short-term interest rates in the market would imply.

Yesterday's action was the latest of many signals the Bank has given in recent weeks that it does not want interest rates to fall too fast in the early part of 1977. The need to restore confidence in the pound during the period before Britain's balance of payments comes right seems to be the major element in this attitude.

A quarter point cut in MLR would be unlikely to stimulate a curbing of the pound's rates. The banks point out that the reductions in Treasury bill rates which have sparked the recent declines in MLR have not been accompanied by similar falls in other money market rates of more immediate concern to them.

It is argued that base rates are at present pitched about right in relation to money market rates.

The Netherlands Central Bank yesterday announced a cut in its official discount rate to 5 per cent from 6 per cent from today.

Insurance inquiry

It was confirmed by the City London detectives yesterday that they were seeking an insurance inquiry.

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Sentiment boosts shares for sixth successive session

The London stock market is in sixth consecutive day of its recent advance, with the FT index rising another 5.1 to 78.

Investors were encouraged by bank lending and industrial insurance figures and bargains asked were the best for three weeks. It is widely expected that MLR will be reduced again today, and this spurred demand for gilt-edged stocks.

Short-dated stocks added one-half and at the longer end of half a point were common. The Government Broker is able to sell more of his per cent long "tap".

City police in marine

How the markets moved

The Times index: 155.33 + 2.47
The FT index: 367.8 + 5.1

Rises

Allen H & Ross	20p to 370p
Assam Trading	20p to 220p
Amal Metal	13p to 225p
Cater Ryder	11p to 248p
Imp Coat Gas	10p to 23p
Minorco	12p to 170p
Man Ship Canal	11p to 185p

Falls

Ass News	5p to 130p
Ass Port Cement	12p to 825p
Brentnall Bead	2p to 40p
Glaxo	5p to 120p
Hammerley	3p to 255p
Harmony	5p to 270p

THE POUND

Australia	1.63
Austria	1.63
Belgium	63.75
Canada	1.76
Denmark	10.25
Finland	6.50
France	1.70
Germany	4.20
Greece	74.00
Hongkong	8.30
Italy	154.00
Japan	520.00
Netherlands	4.20
Norway	9.11
Portugal	57.50
S Africa	1.94
Spain	119.00
Sweden	7.26
Switzerland	4.37
US	1.75
Yugoslavia	34.75

JESSUPS

Motor Vehicle Dealers, Commercial Vehicle Body Builders
and Vehicle Leasing Specialists

	Year to 31st August 1976	1975
Turnover	14,175	12,250
Profit before tax	313	270
Dividend per share	1.39p	1.265p
Earnings per share	3.71p	3.29p

* Turnover and profit at new record levels.
* Improved market penetration by Vauxhall, Bedford and Ford.
* Suitable opportunities for expansion sought.
* New subsidiary developing supply of spares overseas.
* Advance in profit and dividend forecast for current year.

Copies of Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Jessups (Holdings) Limited, 125-131 High Street, Stratford, E15 2DJ.

VAUXHALL • BEDFORD • OPEL • DATSUN • FORD

Brentnall Bead (Holdings) Limited

Record profits for eighth successive year

Big overseas expansion

Profit & Appropriation Year to September 30 1976

	1976	1975
Group Brokerage	2,775,931	1,943,897
Pre-tax profits	803,382	325,883
Tax	314,060	167,350
Net Profit	289,313	158,513
Less Exceptional Item Loss on valuation of quoted investments	58,984	-
Dividends	55,188	58,125

The Chairman, Mr. Fred Bead, states that profitable growth was made in all sectors with the main expansion being overseas. Growth in Canada and Malaysia has been maintained. Brentnall Bead Inc. has been formed in the United States and Mr. Bead is looking for a successful penetration of this market in 1977. The group has taken a step into the Common Market by the acquisition of an insurance broker in Paris and any suitable acquisition which increases their international strength will be considered by the Board. The underlying company produced better profits than was anticipated at the commencement of the year and their results in the current year are expected to be satisfactory. The new financial year has started well and the Chairman is confident of the future progress of the Company.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts available from The Company Secretary, Brentnall Bead (Holdings) Limited, 131 St. John's Hill, Stratford, E15 2DJ.

Bond trading up 22 pc last year

Trading in British Government bonds last year rose £14,700m, or nearly 22 per cent to a record £81,900m, according to figures released by the Stock Exchange yesterday.

There is also the question of the private foreign holders of sterling and it is still open whether the Bank of England should be provided with a safety net against the withdrawal of these funds.

Arguing against this idea is the fact that the level of the private sterling balances held remarkably steady during the period of sterling's sharp decline on foreign exchange markets in recent months.

On the other hand there is undoubtedly great willingness to help Britain by some central banks, including those of West Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

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VAUXHALL • BEDFORD • OPEL • DATSUN • FORD

Leyland to challenge Lucas in car parts market

By Clifford Webb

British Leyland is preparing to challenge Lucas Industries for a slice of the profitable auto-electrics and motor fuel systems in the after sales market which Lucas has dominated for so long.

The move, which comes as a surprise to the trade, is in fact a logical follow-up to the recent merger of six Leyland component companies to form SU/Butec.

The basic plan is to manufacture more equipment for its cars and trucks "in house" as recommended in the Ryder report. The new grouping makes Leyland one of the top 10 component producers in Britain, with a turnover exceeding £65m a year. Butec's formation has also focused Leyland's attention on the much more profitable spare parts business.

Leyland made a tentative move into auto-electrics some years ago when the Truck and Bus Division set up Butec to manufacture heavy duty starter motors and alternators for its commercial vehicles.

By merging its wholesale agents handling SU Carburetors with those handling Butec's range, Leyland now has a 100-strong network and the means to win sales from the market leader.

But it must expand its restricted range of products and this it is doing. Contact sets, distributors, ignition coils, rotor arms, brushes, bulbs, flasher units and lighting sets are being added. At present these are being bought from other manufacturers—not Lucas—but if demand warrants they will later be made by Butec.

Mr Tim Worrall, SU/Butec sales and marketing director, said last night: "This is a logical extension of our auto-electric business from the heavy duty end into passenger car parts. We shall be supplying them for all makes."

Inquiry expected into profits on paint

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

An investigation into prices and profits in the £250m-a-year British paint industry is expected to be ordered soon by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Mr Hattersley, who has been looking at a number of industrial sectors with substantial profit margins, is expected to ask the Price Commission to investigate the structure of the industry, including the exceptional rises in feedstock costs since the oil crisis.

In similar references to the commission, Mr Hattersley has been at pains to point out that an investigation does not necessarily imply evidence of profiteering.

The sharpest rises in paint prices, both in the industrial sector—such as marine and car finishes—and in the decorative sector covering the house market, occurred in 1974. Then prices of retail paints rose 50 per cent in a little over six months.

Retail sources said last night that a litre can of white gloss paint, which was retailing at about £2 in 1975, now carried a notional retail price—recommended prices having been dropped—of nearly £3.

But a general chipping of margins from manufacturer through wholesaler to retailer meant that in many outlets

customers could be buying such a litre can at between £1.99 and £2.48.

Mr Graham Chance, president of the London and Southern Counties Ironmongers' Association, said that considerable surplus stocks of paint last year had probably contributed to the relative price stability.

Competition had increased now that supermarkets and discount stores were selling paint in competition with traditional outlets.

The decline in the industrial paint sector, together with the recession in housebuilding, has hit the industry. There are about 350 companies dominated by a few big groups, including ICI, Berger-Jenson

and Nicholson (a subsidiary of the German Hoechst chemical group), Reed International and Donald Macpherson, manufacturer of paint sold by F. W. Woolworth.

But the strength of the do-it-yourself market—worth about £70m a year in turnover—has helped makers in the retail sector.

Macpherson in the first half of last year produced a 25 per cent rise in sales value because of volume delivery improvements compared with the previous year as well as the effects of price rises and some element of cost increase.

Trading profits nearly doubled at £13m and pre-tax profits almost trebled.

Mr Roy Pickering, national chairman of the Institution of Works Managers on December 31. Many British companies could benefit considerably from making greater use of the added value concept, notably in the delivery data, performance and for monitoring productivity, but also as a basis for better understanding of the process of wealth creation and for wage and salary policies.

However, before added value

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why industry could get better returns from added value

From Mr E. G. Wood

Sir, As a staunch advocate of added value I was delighted to see Maurice Corina's article (December 30) on the ICI proposals for an employee bonus scheme based on added value rather than overall profits. Let us hope that other companies will follow the lead set by ICI.

It was also heartening to see further recommendation of added value by Mr Roy Pickering, national chairman of the Institution of Works Managers

is seized upon as the latest panacea, may I issue some words of warning. Those who see added value as just a basis for a new bonus scheme should look hard (as ICI have done) before they leap. Added value has much wider connotations than bonus schemes. It would be a pity, if not a tragedy, to see added value misused by over-enthusiastic novices.

There are several organizations and individuals in Britain with experience of using added value for various purposes, but there has been insufficient exchange of information and experience. There is perhaps a need for a national centre for the study of added value to serve as a focal point, to act as a clearing house of information, to carry out research and to devise and present educational programmes on added value and it uses. Such a centre

would promote, rather than inhibit, the activities of existing organizations and individuals. More important, it would draw together a body of knowledge and experience and it would help the uninitiated to avoid the pitfalls.

As a step in this direction, may I suggest a conference in the near future. We would be willing to organize or co-organize in such an event and I would welcome comments and suggestions from all parties interested in participating or attending. Yours faithfully,

E. G. WOOD,
Director,
Centre for Innovation and Productivity,
Sheffield City Polytechnic,
Ralford House,
16 Pinston Square,
Sheffield S1 2EZ,
January 3.

Measuring productive capacity

From Mr N. K. Powell

Sir, It is relatively easy to forget that quality, price and delivery are interrelated. Recent contributors to your columns, following the BIM report on the performance of manufacturing industries, are eager to seize on single perspectives, but not all perspectives. I believe we are witnessing a major change in the way in which we measure effective capacity in a manufacturing industry.

Quality is the first casualty, followed by a reduction in innovation; then there comes the phase of relying on a mixture of fear and greed will at all levels of the hierarchy to maintain the momentum of production. As the variety in the system is reduced, so the momentum has to increase in order to reduce price and delivery.

During times of inflation, however, one does not reduce the absolute price or delivery, but instead one aims to reduce the rate of increase of these parameters. We should not be surprised if the effective capacity is diminishing at the time when survival is dependent on increasing it, because we have bureaucratized industry by allowing fewer but larger units to develop. The laudable objective of removing fear from the workforce at all levels in a bureaucracy, accompanied by the removal of

good will at the same time among its managers.

The net result is a fundamental change in the way in which we should measure how long it takes to complete a project in a non-pressure system. Instead of arithmetically adding the estimated work content for each task and regarding the total "planned" hours as chronological hours, thus providing a realistic delivery date, the alternative is to invert the principle of discounted cash flow by compounding the estimated work times prior to adding these together in order to achieve a realistic delivery date.

On a forward planning basis this approach is unlikely to be acceptable by those in marketing and accounting, but retrospectively the production manager has to live with his "failure" to deliver on time.

The "failure" is not due to production inefficiency but to a blind spot in the analytical approach adopted by disinterested functional managers.

It is simply a case of neither the stick nor the carrot having any effect and it remains to be seen whether we invent bigger sticks or bigger carrots for our "doodle engine" economy.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN K. POWELL,
Director, Management Course,
Manchester Business School,
Booth Street West,
Manchester.

How Whitehall spends tax revenue

From Mr John Harrison

Sir, Thank you for Oliver Stanley's sensible thoughts on the tax mess (December 17). Would you invite him to contribute a further installment on the proportion of wealth produced that is taken by tax in its various forms. Maybe we in Britain are not all that highly taxed by comparison with one or two countries, but we lack a clear grasp of how much of our wealth is spent by government and of how that spending is sub-divided.

Some say about 40 per cent of GNP is collected by the tax man. I have seen the figure 60 per cent as another estimate. The variation is a broad one. And does either figure include the excess of new money created over new wealth produced (which, surely, Mr Stanley?) accrues to government alone and is therefore also a tax.

There are signs of a growing willingness to question the efficiency of the government

machine, taxation included, even among those who administer it. May the moment not be right for fostering a greater awareness of where the money goes and how much goes, just as in the household it becomes increasingly important to be clear how much one spends on goods, services, enjoyment, &c, and which one is prepared to curtail in order NOT to outstrip income. We accept to listen to the huckstering of various spending agencies: it's something like listening to the child ren asking for more toys and games without bothering to show them exactly what's available once food, clothes and shelter have been paid for. Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer need a good PR man?

Yours truly,
JOHN HARRISON,
Director,
Chesham Amalgamations & Investments,
36 Chesham Place,
London SW1X 8EE,
December 21.

£30m worth of wasted N Sea gas

From Mr J. R. F. Moss

Sir, Why no outcry at the government's decision to waste £30m worth of our North Sea reserves by permitting gas to be burnt-off? As soon as it was realized, some five years ago, that some of the oil was associated with a high proportion of gas, national policy should have created maximum energy recovery.

But as soon as the first draft of the "Pipelines Bill" was seen, many people foresaw that the Secretary of State might be placed under great pressure, to which he has now yielded, to allow gas to be sacrificed for quick profits.

Mr Viovey's article (December 10) records the government's excuse that oil "worth £100m would then be lost" if permission to burn off was withheld. Not so—the oil flow would only have been delayed whereas the gas will indeed be lost for all time.

It cannot even be pleaded that the late compressor delivery was foreseeable since precisely the same calamity struck Phillips' Ekofisk field two years ago. The Norwegian Government, however, acted firmly to prohibit large scale oil extraction until the gas could be safeguarded. Even the

Libyan Government has shown more wisdom than we have in preventing Gulf Oil from exporting any oil until they had an assured market for the associated gas.

Shell and Occidental cannot be blamed for seeking to earn early revenue by selling their capital surplus but they are sure must accrue to the Department of Energy for lack of foresight and failure to act even now.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. F. MOSS,
25 Church Street,
Stapleford,
Cambridge CB2 5DS,
December 13.

Mr Carter's reflationary measures may stop at \$15,000m

From Frank Vogel

Washington, Jan 6

Mr Jimmy Carter, the President-elect, is expected to decide on only a relatively modest package of measures to stimulate the American economy.

Bankers in New York and economists advising Mr Carter believe he will announce a reflationary programme totalling about \$15,000m (£9,000m) within the next few days.

Today Mr Carter started meeting with congressional leaders to finalize his measures. He has already agreed to give his full support to legislation introduced in Congress earlier this week designed to boost

public works programmes by \$4,000m, with the aim of creating about 600,000 more jobs.

The President-elect's programme will contain numerous tax measures which are likely to enjoy swift congressional passage, while the proposals made by President Ford earlier this week, involving tax cuts in the present calendar year of more than \$12,000m, are expected to be ignored by Congress.

Four weeks ago the President-elect was widely expected to support reflationary measures totalling between \$25,000m and \$30,000m, as many Liberal Democrats and trade union

leaders were urging upon him. Now, however, his advisers, in common with a large number of private American economists, have significantly changed their views on the economy's health.

The present mood of substantial optimism now pervading the United States scene is reflected, for example, in a new report by Mr Tilford Gaines, senior vice-president and chief economist of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, who notes that "recent statistics suggest that a strong rate of economic growth is once more under way."

Mr Gaines states that he sees further improvement on the inflation front here, while "we can be confident of continued economic expansion, rising sales and profits and a gradually declining jobless rate."

Similarly optimistic predictions are being heard, replacing the widespread forecasts of continued sluggish economic activity.

This optimism is reflected in a survey recently conducted by *Business Week* magazine. Most of the experts involved in the survey based their predictions partly on Mr Carter's proposal of a reflationary package of some \$15,000m.

Not one of the 25 economists in the survey saw real gross national product growth here in

1977 at less than 4 per cent, while the average forecast was a 5 per cent gap rate, compared to an estimated annual rate of about 4 per cent for the last half-year.

At the same time all of the economists saw unemployment declining with the average forecast calling for a national rate of about 7.1 per cent in 1977.

As for inflation, the survey showed that only one of the 25 experts predicted a rate above 7 per cent, while the average forecast was a 5.5 per cent level, which is marginally higher than the annual rate now prevailing.

By Peter Hill

Britain's car manufacturers are being urged to step up their steel purchases from the British Steel Corporation, whose supply difficulties since mid-1975 have led car makers to build up supplies from overseas. At the same time, the state steel underpinning is engaged in an aggressive overseas sales drive to countries outside the European Community.

The United Kingdom motor and components industry is one of BSC's major customers, consuming nearly 2.5 million tons of steel in its steel and commercial vehicle production.

Although the motor industry aims normally to keep foreign steel purchases down to between 10 to 15 per cent of requirements, at some periods last year the element rose to around 40 per cent.

Quarterly contracts are due for renewal next month, and BSC sales executives have pressed British motor companies strongly to place bigger orders with the corporation.

Since the summer the BSC has steadily increased production against the generally depressed state of the world market, and built up stocks.

Mr Angus Murray, deputy chairman of Crane Fruehauf, has been made chairman. He succeeds Mr L. H. Allwood, who remains a director and becomes deputy chairman.

Mr Julian Wathen has become a director of Mercantile and General Reinsurance. Mr A. F. Tulce has resigned.

Mr N. Brierley has joined the board of Nepean.

Mr J. R. S. Brockway has retired from the board of Sedgwick Forbess Holdings, but becomes resident managing director of Sedgwick Forbess (Bernuda).

Mr P. R. Stevens has joined the board of Midland Bank Trust Co. Mr J. A. Cave has resigned.

Mr J. Jennings and Mr W. Whitmore have been elected to the board of American Barrels Ltd from March 1. Mr D. F. Calabrese and Mr J. McCord resign as directors on February 28.

Mr Hugh Armstrong has become managing director of Small Business Finance Fund. He succeeds Mr Jack Laybourne, who remains a director.

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COMPANY MEETING

PLAXTON'S (SCARBOROUGH) LIMITED

(Luxury Coach Body Builders)

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr F. W. Plaxton for the year ended August 31st, 1976:

An increase of 34% in turnover produced an improvement in pre-tax profits from £768,013 to £911,210.

Coach Building: The agreement concluded with our labour force together with recruitment and elimination of initial problems enabled better production levels and margins to be attained in the second half of the year.

Repairs and Service: This Division had a somewhat mixed year. Due to increased competition and the long dry summer, repair work was inconsistent, but sales of spare parts increased greatly and more than compensated.

Wired Overhaul Limited: Higher orders and output in later months together with improved internal controls resulted in the final contribution exceeding that achieved last year.

Building: Very full activity was maintained throughout the year both on contract work and shopfitting. In the prevailing conditions the results produced were most satisfactory.

Although forecasts for the outcome of this year is a hazardous task, there are factors in the Group's favour. Our new 'View-master' coach was very well received and we have a very healthy order book. Further progress has been made in the export field. Production is continuing at the higher level attained in the latter months of last year. In the absence of further penal legislation and unforeseeable obstacles, I am reasonably confident that improved results will be achieved.

Recovery in exports of car products

British motor product exports recovered in November to £131m from a low of £256.6m in October. Imports however continued their steady increase to reach £179m. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said yesterday that the values of November car exports, at £51.5m and commercial vehicles, at £50.3m, were the highest since last June.

Overseas sales of motor parts, components and accessories were at a record total of £148m, half as much again as the value in November, 1975.

For the first 11 months of last year motor industry exports were worth £2,592m, 27 per cent up on the same period of 1975. Total imports for the period were £1,505m, up 52 per cent on the previous year.

Luton-based Vauxhall boosted its home car sales in 1976 by 30 per cent, although the total market increased by only 7 per cent. Export performance was even better—44 per cent up.

Tokyo: Japan's automobile manufacturers association and Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders will hold talks in London on January 28 to discuss the share of Japanese cars in the British Market.

Japan lifts sales of motor cycles

Japan accounted for 77 per cent of the 289,670 motor cycles, auto-cycles, and sidecars imported into the United Kingdom during the 11 months to November, 1976, according to the United Kingdom Overseas Trade Statistics. This compares with a 66 per cent share of a smaller total for the same period in 1975.

In brief

Hawker Siddeley wins £6.4m Arab orders

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering is to build a £4m, seven-megawatt diesel power station in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) under a contract obtained through Kennedy & Donkin, consulting engineers, for the Sharjah Electricity Department.

According to Hawker Siddeley, less than a fortnight elapsed from the initial request to the completion of designs and negotiations.

Two other Middle East contracts for Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering are for stations worth £2.35m in Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman.

Healthy UK energy surplus forecast to 1990

Continuing high fuel prices and efforts to promote conservation should enable Britain to enjoy an energy surplus up to 1990 and still export significantly, according to a new report from Cambridge Information and Research Services.

The report, *The Energy Markets to 1990*, points out that high prices and efforts to conserve fuel are helping to keep down consumption when Britain's North Sea oil and gas production is expanding rapidly.

In the studies undertaken by the group, Britain emerges with a net energy surplus in 1990 of between 105 and 280 million tons of coal equivalent.

Machine tool orders on better trend

New orders for Britain's machine tool industry for both home and overseas markets improved markedly in the third quarter of 1976. According to

Shortfall in chemicals output target seen

Despite a small increase during the summer, output from the chemicals industry in 1976 is likely to be lower than forecast. According to the Government's *Trade and Industry* published today, the rise in output is not expected to meet the 10 per cent target increase.

Prospects for 1977 are also not as bright now as they were three months ago.

Tokyo export credits at end-year record

December export letters of credit in Japan hit a record monthly high valued at \$4,675m, up from the \$4,153m total in the previous December and on the \$3,842m total in November, the Bank of Japan said yesterday. The previous high was \$4,391m set in March, 1976.

Opec experts to discuss aid fundings

Finance experts from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will meet in Vienna on Monday to discuss aid commitments for 1977, an Opec spokesman said.

Board reshuffle confirms Holsten's status

Reconstitution of the board of Holsten Distributors, which imports Holsten lager and markets it in Britain, announced yesterday, confirms the brand as Grand Metropolitan's premium lager in the United Kingdom.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Grand Met and the appointment of Mr S. Scandley Grinstead as chairman and Mr Alan Bridgett as managing director will bring it closer to the other Grand Met subsidiary, Watney Mann Treadman. Mr Grinstead is a joint managing director of Grand Met and chairman of its subsidiary Watney Mann & Truman Holdings.

Car makers urged to buy state steel

By Peter Hill

Britain's car manufacturers are being urged to step up their steel purchases from the British Steel Corporation, whose supply difficulties since mid-1975 have led car makers to build up supplies from overseas. At the same time, the state steel underpinning is engaged in an aggressive overseas sales drive to countries outside the European Community.

The United Kingdom motor and components industry is one of BSC's major customers, consuming nearly 2.5 million tons of steel in its steel and commercial vehicle production.

Although the motor industry aims normally to keep foreign steel purchases down to between 10 to 15 per cent of requirements, at some periods last year the element rose to around 40 per cent.

Quarterly contracts are due for renewal next month, and BSC sales executives have pressed British motor companies strongly to place bigger orders with the corporation.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

GEC offers a bird in the hand

There are two points of importance about the GEC capital restructuring: its general implications and the specific implications for GEC shareholders. To deal with the second first, it would not be surprising if the market finds the present proposals mildly disappointing. Certainly, the proposals represent a choice of higher income of effective capital payment for existing shareholders but they do not produce a higher income prospect for prospective purchasers of the stock to look forward to in the future. In short, the capital restructuring, GEC shares will not be a vastly different animal from the shares of the company as they are now. The share which is reduced by the extent of the interest on the new interest-bearing capital and assets per share are also reduced by the amount of capital redesignated from shareholders' funds to the loan capital account.

And on the basis of that, what is the correct price for a share that will still remain hampered by the feeling that it is a low yield? At 150p, for instance, the yield will be a mere 3.6 per cent.

That said, existing shareholders are being offered a fairly tasty bird in the hand. But in a general context, is it a flagrant breach of the spirit of restraint or not? Arguably, it is not. What it is in effect is a release of income on capital that has been freed as a result of a successful rationalization of these businesses: it involves no management of that capital "gain" which remains in the business for further expansion—albeit that this may well be overdone.

Whether or not one feels that income should be released in this way in the present climate—the authorities appear to have no objection—the more important point is that it highlights one more of the absurd type of distortions that can occur under present Government policies. GEC, moreover, will not be the last to look at this kind of scheme. There are a number of other companies with schemes of their own up their sleeves, all of which are likely to be applied to rather different circumstances. And even if the authorities side there are those who are also considering new ways of investing in industry that get round the problem of the politically restricted equity share.

Allied Breweries

Holding the margins

Prospective investors in Allied Breweries still have to weigh a high yield against a high price earnings ratio, for in each respect Allied's shares, now yielding 3.35 per cent at 55p, are selling at 10 times earnings, are a point and more ahead of the opposition. In terms of the group's immediate prospects, a premium in the price would be hard to justify. For although last year's performance was depressed to the tune of some 50m by the inter-union dispute which disrupted business at Ansell's in the first half of the year, this time round earnings will reflect a dilution inherent in November's purchase of Teachers. The net result is likely to be pre-tax profits in the region of £75m and earnings little changed.

That, of course, assumes some internal growth, not an unreasonable assumption after the second half performance which fell little short of that recently reported by Bass and Whitbread, even though Allied can only now claim to have "more or less" recovered the market share lost during the Ansell dispute.

This time round the group is reasonably optimistic about beer volume, and cheerful about the outlook for its wines and spirits divisions, which also put up a strong performance in the second six months of last year. The principal determinant of profits will, however, be margins, which should at least



Mr Keith Showering, chairman of Allied Breweries: optimistic about beer volume.

be held, since the group is unlikely to be inhibited by either the Price Commission or the competition from putting up its prices to compensate for sharply rising raw material and distribution costs.

These are likely to have undermined some of the improvement in the end-September balance sheet, which shows net borrowings some 50m lower despite a £12m addition on the revaluation of foreign loans. But the group's financial position still looks strong enough to cope with higher working capital requirements. So the yield has plenty of backing—particularly as the brewers come out well under CCA accounting.

Final: 1975-76 (1974-75)
Capitalization £40m
Sales £885m (£737m)
Pre-tax profits £63m (£60.2m)
Earnings per share 6.4p (5.1p)
Dividend gross 5.42p (4.93p)

Morgan Crucible

Recovery accelerates

The hiccup in world economic growth has not been allowed to interrupt Morgan Crucible's continuing progress this year.

Thus pre-tax profits 85 per cent ahead at £25.5m in the second quarter, followed gains of 32 and 65 per cent in the first two quarters; and, on the group's own forecast of an equally firm closing period, full year profits should be at least £94m against last year's £69m.

The main drive behind the recovery is still coming from the carbon division whose volume gearing is highlighted by the fact that trading profits at the nine month stage are running at £2.55m, more than twice last year's, and the strength of only a one fifth sales gain.

With Europe still sluggish and the improving United States doing fairly small beer, it has been the United Kingdom tapered market which has been the export content and the benefit of the move to Morrison in South Wales that have provided the biggest turnaround. Elsewhere, firm demand for ceramic fibre is keeping the ceramic division on a growth track, though it looks as though the usually restive Acorn side (industrial lubricants and artists' colours) has been hit by the inclusion of parts of the electronics business which are contributing to suffer from downturn in domestic appliances.

Further growth is likely in 1977 if West European and Australian markets pick up and Morgan Crucible probably still has some benefits from its high level of capital spending over the past few years to work through. Meanwhile the group's tight rein on working capital despite the 21 per cent sales jump to date, is evidenced by the fall in interest charges.

But the shares have had a good run over the past year and for the moment a prospective p/e ratio of around 10, even if it could fall another three points or so in 1977, is already

discouraging further growth, though the yield of 7.9 per cent at 92p, up 5p yesterday, is above average.

Nine months 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £44.4m
Sales £57.2m (£47.7m)
Pre-tax profits £64.2m (£3.94m)

Gilt Experiments at last?

Floating rate bonds have been viewed by some as the obvious solution to the problem of investors' crippling inability to keep pace with inflation. Such a bond might not quite match the rate of inflation but, being geared to money market rates, would at least approximate to it and rise and fall in line with it.

Yet ironically, if the Government unveils a floating rate bond today, as some expect, it will almost certainly be to a less than rapturous reception. Investing institutions are, by their nature, suspicious of an instrument offering variable returns which cannot be measured against their known future liabilities.

They will be even more suspicious of it at the moment since they widely believe rates are headed down and are anxious therefore to secure as high a fixed rate as they can ahead of any drop. This is precisely not the climate in which to launch a variable rate bond, although cynics will argue that a flop is just what the authorities—basically opposed to changes in established funding methods—want to see so as to kill the spectre of such experiments once and for all.

Certainly established mechanisms have been proving their worth of late. The present long "tap" stock seems likely to expire early next week, with an estimated £550m already sold out of the total £750m issued. Thereafter, it is felt the Government Broker could pause for breath. The 1987 funding requirement will be effectively completed and it might be the right moment to allow the shortage in the money markets—largely the result of the gilt funding programme—to ease.

J & FB/Dunford

Weighing risk and reward

Johnson & Firth Brown expects to overcome the growing credibility being given to Dunford & Elliott's forecast of a dramatic trading recovery this year with its increased offer. For Dunford shareholders the effective 46p a share bid excludes an additional 10p a share for their preference share rights.

For many small, and a number of not so small shareholders faced with the option of receiving 10p for these rights or having to find £1 a share by mid-January in order to exercise their entitlement, the increased offer must look tempting. Conversely the new offer still only represents an exit p/e ratio of 2.4 if Dunford's forecast of earnings in the current year proves to be accurate. And the credibility of Dunford's talk of recovery remains the key to the bid.

Dunford hopes to add substance to its optimism by producing impressive first quarter results within the next week or so. If it can show that turnover and trading profit targets are being surpassed Dunford will be able to build up its argument that shareholders holding on will finally reap the rewards of their patience when the high gearing that caused its problems over the past two years starts to work in its favour.

The risk/reward balance is, however, very finely weighted. The increased offer may swing a number of the wavering institutions towards the safety first course of accepting, rather than hoping for, a bid even if it is most impressively spread, tomorrow.

'Banks in the home' receive a check

Banks in the United States are encountering problems in their attempt to bring about the much talked-about electronic-banking revolution. Among them are legal headaches such as a court ruling that the electronic terminals constituted illegal branch banks under Illinois law.

Since the 1950s, American banking experts have talked of a day when the bulk of routine financial transactions, whether deposits, withdrawals or the paying of bills, would be done electronically through remote computer terminals situated conveniently in supermarkets, offices or even private homes.

In this ideal world cheques would all but disappear. Instead, networks of bank computers, linked electronically, would shuttle funds throughout America, settling in seconds the myriad transactions that normally take days to complete under the present cheque-based system.

However, although the technology now exists for full-scale electronic banking, it has so far failed to make much of an impact on the financial system at the consumer level. Many bank customers seem reluctant to embrace banking of this kind for reasons which range from distrust of the computer to dissatisfaction with present methods.

Moreover, many financial institutions are bristling at the heavy expense of installing and operating electronic systems, particularly in light of the lukewarm response from the public.

Behind the changeover is a soaring volume of cheques which threatens to choke the banking system despite strides made in recent years in streamlining the industry's cumbersome, labour-intensive cheque-clearing operation.

An impetus for electronic banking is also provided by the competition between the banks and the savings institutions for the nation's \$700,000m of consumer deposits. At least one bank has manifested recently as savings institutions have won the right in many areas to offer cheque privileges.

Since the early 1930s financial institutions have pursued individual depositors largely by means of the financial adviser, but today, banking experts see electronic banking as ultimately providing a cheaper and more efficient way of attracting deposits.

The most visible development so far is the estimated 6,000 automated teller and cash machines that have been installed by banks and savings bodies both in their offices and in places such as shopping centres, office buildings and airports.

Cheaper and more compact remote terminals, about 10,000 of them so far, have appeared in the check-out areas and credit departments of supermarkets and other retailers.

About a dozen financial institutions have also started offering a bill-paying-by-telephone service. Payments are electronically deducted from customer accounts and routed to the accounts of the parties being paid. It is all done without cheques or postage.

The courts have held that electronic terminals, such as automated tellers and full-service point-of-sale units, are functioning like branches and therefore are subject to state branching laws.

These laws, which exist in nearly 30 states, limit branches geographically—to one county, say, or to a given number of branches within a given distance of the main bank.

The legal muddle may not be serious for some time. According to congressional sources, legislation is expected to be introduced during the present session of the Congress that would free electronic banking from branch restrictions. But the bill is not likely to be considered before late this year when the National Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer, which was established by Congress to examine a broad range of public issues related to electronic banking, is scheduled to complete its work.

Jonathan R. Laing

AP-Dow Jones

North-west: is self-help enough to generate prosperity?

Although industrial planning officials in the North-west have complained that the region's share of the EEC Regional Development Fund is "disappointing", industry leaders have said that North-west industry itself does not need to be "propped up by other people". It can, they claim, generate its own prosperity if it puts its mind to it.

The two points of view are not necessarily in conflict. On the one hand industrial development officials have criticized the fact that the North-west, with some of the worst unemployment black spots in the country—has been allocated only £2.7m from the fund while the North-east is getting £11.6m and Scotland £8.5m out of a total allocation to Britain of £25.8m.

Mr Clifford Chapman, director of the North-West Industrial Development Association, says these figures illustrate the fact that the North-west is still not getting its fair share of aid. He points to the fact that although the money comes from the EEC, decisions on priorities are taken by the British Government and that since the regional fund was started the North-west has had about 10 per cent of the total British allocation.

However, the view that North-west industry is capable, given the chance, of generating its own, and therefore the region's, prosperity is one of the main conclusions reached in the report of a survey carried out by the regional headquarters of the Confederation of British Industry.

That survey shows that each of the 33,000 people working for five large organizations in the North-west work for one other person among its suppliers or in the retail trades.

Earlier this week the ability to call up "teletext" pages of information on the screen of a domestic television set reached the general public, at least the way it happened to be in Knightsbridge, London, which is 395 to spare.

At this price Harrods are now offering the first production models of the Pyle Labgear teletext adapter for colour television sets. This enables BBC, Channel 4 and IBA to offer services of broadcast pages of news and other information to be received simply by connecting the adapter to the set and then selecting the appropriate pages by means of a calculator-like keypad.

While the general benefits of teletext are becoming familiar, its potential for deaf viewers has been largely overlooked. Together with the Post Office's proposed telephone-linked video service, teletext could help to revolutionize communications for the deaf and the hard of hearing.

A modest programme is now under way to help to make teletext adapters or decoders available to deaf people. This is one of several examples of the application of new technology to the problems which face the deaf and the blind.

The teletext programme has been mounted by Deaf-Fax, a small research and development group based in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Set up jointly by Mr Ken Carter, a lecturer at the Centre for the Deaf, London, and Mr Derek Southern, an electronics instructor at Harwell, the group aims to concentrate initially on assembling and hiring out the decoders.

Demonstrations to more than 1,000 deaf people have aroused an enthusiastic response. Deaf-Fax is applying for charitable status as a company and meanwhile has got things moving with the help of volunteer labour from an electronics club in Wallingford, money raised by local groups (a fund-raising pub crawl by Harwell apprentices raised £200) and hardware donated by Plessey and Texas Instruments.

Deaf-Fax is also developing a

And this one for one figure does not allow for many more jobs supported in the public sector by tax and rates payments, both by the companies and their employees.

This shows, the CBI's study group says, just how much the presence of successful industry benefits the local community and how essential it is for industry to thrive if people are to be drawn back into productive employment.

The five organizations involved in the study were Greenall Whitley (brewers), ICI

cludes salaries, pensions and national insurance and after paying their rates and taxes, the five organizations had just about £45m left for investment. With this money they not only had to purchase new plant and equipment but also pay interest and dividends, repay loans and finance their working capital.

Mr Michael Tarling, chairman of the CBI study group, says "no one else has ever done a survey in this field. We have been able to put figures to what were for most people just ideas. It is essentially a simple but

the gross national product of the United Kingdom in 1975: was £94,095m so that the five CBI member companies and their 53,000 North-west employees generated 0.33 per cent of the country's total economic activity.

Although the survey has thrown up some interesting facts, it is hardly likely to lead to any lessening of pressure on the government for continuing and increasing regional economic aid. Indeed there is already strong reaction to the Chancellor's decision to end the Regional Employment Premium.

Results of another survey just published—this time by the Amalgamated Textile Workers—show that one in every five jobs in the Lancashire textile industry would have been at risk but for the Government's £20 a week temporary employment subsidy.

In all during the past year 74 spinning and manufacturing firms with 12,300 workers turned to the emergency aid scheme. This represents more than 21 per cent of the total employed in spinning and manufacturing in Lancashire. Applications accounted for nearly 19 per cent of all applications for subsidy from industry in the North-west and 38 per cent of the jobs threatened.

The survey also shows that 34 textile firms have announced redundancies involving nearly 5,200 workers. These have already taken place or will do so during 1977.

Mr Jack Brown, general secretary of the union, says "It makes us very concerned as to what is likely to happen if the temporary employment subsidy is withdrawn before the fortunes of the Lancashire textile industry have improved".

R W Shakespeare examines recent studies of the region's industrial health

Mond division (chemicals), Pilkington (glass), Rolls-Royce and Vauxhall (motors). Each completed a specially designed questionnaire which analysed in detail how they disposed of their income in a single year (1975). Their purchases were worth £367m. They bought large quantities of fuels, chemicals, metal and engineering goods, textiles and paper and transport—supporting 40,000 jobs in their supplying companies.

Kearl purchases were calculated to support a further 12,500 jobs. The purchased goods and services became, after processing, sales worth £577m, both at home and abroad, representing an "added value" of £310m. Of this "added value", after paying employee costs which in-

dynamic system with which we illustrate that externally more sales generate more purchases—and hence more jobs among suppliers and retailers—and internally we must aim to enlarge our added value so that we can invest more and create yet more business momentum for the future.

"Our survey shows that in this part of the world we do not need to be propped up by other people's added value. We can prosper if we put our minds to it."

The £310m of added value among the five companies was made up of £115m in wages; £10m to shareholders, £84m in taxes, £20m in rates, £17m to pension funds and £19m for health and social security payments.

The survey points out that

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Electronics put the blind and deaf in closer touch with the printed word

"video writer" to enable deaf people to communicate more easily by telephone (teletext) linked telephones for the deaf and a new type of keyboard (a typewriter-like keyboard) would be linked to a memory unit and to a television screen which would display what is typed. The message would be stored in the memory unit and later transmitted rapidly by telephone using an acoustic coupler (in this case, the telephone handset is needed) to a recipient having the same equipment.

By volunteer assembly, purchase of components at discount prices and, possibly, support from one of the larger foundations, Deaf-Fax hopes to be able to provide teletext decoders at a rental of perhaps £1 a week within the next few years, and to gain feedback on their use that will be of general educational value.

Meanwhile, in Knightsbridge, that £395 price tag is likely to drop to between £100 and £150 over the same period, if electronic calculator experience is any guide, as production volumes increase.

Electronic technology is being applied in devices to help the blind, also. These include a portable braille computer terminal and other business machines, developed by Clarke & Smith of Wallingford, Surrey, with support from the National Research Development Corporation.

This terminal has a single-line strip along which braille characters are literally erected by raised pins responding to stored information on magnetic tape.

For the future, it is envisaged, this same principle could be applied so that blind people could "read" (in braille) the BBC and IBA teletext pages.

It is already possible for blind people to read ordinary print in books, newspapers or other documents, with the help of an electronic device known as the Optacon. With one hand the user moves a small camera across the text to be read; under the fingers of his other

hand the shape of the letters is reproduced via a series of vibrating rods.

This system was developed by the National Research Development Corporation. One is the Sonicaid, an ultrasonic device mounted on spectacles which enables a blind person to be aware of obstacles ahead.

Ultrasonic transmissions from the device are reflected by obstacles ahead and converted into audible sounds, in such a way that the pitch of the echo indicates the distance.

Twin receivers in the spectacles are used to give a stereo sound pattern, from which the approximate direction of an object can be discerned.

Wormald International, a New Zealand company, is now marketing the Sonicaid under licence from the NRDC.

The second NRDC project again involves Clarke & Smith, which, together with the NRDC, pioneered the "talking book for the blind" scheme using tape cassettes. Latest development in this field is a fast method of copying large numbers of cassettes, which up to now has proved a problem in the talking-book service.

In recent years a number of local "talking" newspapers have emerged to complement the talking-book service. The new copier, according to the NRDC, opens up possibilities for the introduction of cassette-based "talking magazines" with a national circulation.

At a price of about £2,000, including training, the Optacon devices give blind staff the ability to read virtually any plug that is printed. They are in general slower in use than braille, but clearly give great advantages in enabling professional staff to read and handle technical documents which are unavailable in braille.

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hand the shape of the letters is reproduced via a series of vibrating rods.

This system was developed by the National Research Development Corporation. One is the Sonicaid, an ultrasonic device mounted on spectacles which enables a blind person to be aware of obstacles ahead.

Ultrasonic transmissions from the device are reflected by obstacles ahead and converted into audible sounds, in such a way that the pitch of the echo indicates the distance.

Twin receivers in the spectacles are used to give a stereo sound pattern, from which the approximate direction of an object can be discerned.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities continue post-Christmas advance

With encouraging bank lending and industrial investment figures reinforcing an already firm tone, share prices gained ground for the sixth consecutive day.

Once again most trading was confined to the morning session, but bargains marked 5,500, were the best for three weeks. The FT Index, 8.3 ahead at 2 pm, was later hit by profit-taking to close at 367.8, a net gain of 5.1 on the day.

Renewed takeover talk brought new speculation in Newcastle shipowner **Commonwealth**. The share jumped 12p to 160p. Favourable potential suitors are **Swan Hunter**, which has about 18 per cent, and **British & Commonwealth** through its stake in **Monteth Investment**, which holds 10.5 per cent.

It now stands more than 100 points better than the 1976 "low" reached in late October with more than 25 per cent of this recovery coming since Christmas.

The trend to lower interest rates again spurred gilts where "shorts" rose one-eighth and medium and long-dated stocks were better by as much as one half. The expectation of a 14 per cent MLR helped the Government Broker to sell more of the 151 per cent long "tap" at 299.

Among the big-name indus-

trial leaders most interest centred on GEC which came out with its capital reorganization plans late in the day.

Before the news the shares rose 8p to 181p but thereafter jobbers did not deal. Elsewhere, **Bawker Siddeley** continued its run with another 10p gain to 472p. Tube Investments gained 3p to 318p and GKN 5p to 289p. But after early strength, ICI settled back to an unchanged 350p after profit-taking.

Paper and printing shares were wanted again, particularly **De La Rue**, better by 7p to 247p, and **Dickenson Robinson** 6p to 96p. At the close, **WH Smith** "A" stood 3p better at 341p, there were currency gains from **Bowater** 184p and **Reed** 194p with **Beaverbrook** "A" adding 11p to 39p. Associated Newspapers succumbed to profit-taking after its recent run which has been based on North Sea hopes.

The shares ended 6p off at 130p, but other North Sea stocks continued to go ahead, notably **Berry Wiggins** 5p to 35p, **IC** 10p to 370p and **Siebens Gas** 12p to 132p.

Though more subdued than in recent days, shipping shares again had some firm spots. These included **British & Commonwealth** 5p to 220p, **Manchester Liners** 5p to 220p, **Reardon** "A" 5p to 75p and **European Ferries**, an active stock and 3p to the good at 58p.

Ocean Wilsons jumped 8p to 156p on bid hopes.

One already to have received an approach is **Kode Inter-**

Up went paint maker and Woolworth supplier Donald Macpherson 4p to 44p after a 3p rise on Wednesday. Figures for the year to last October are due next month. **Business prospered in the first six months and margins widened sharply. It could be that market hopes of £2.5m against £2m were conservative. Profits could have been around £3m.**

national and the shares added another 2p to 59p. Bookmakers, **Ladbroke**, up 1p to 91p and **Coral**, 2p to 101p, both staged a partial recovery from recent losses.

Profits more or less in line with the market's expectations, left **Allied Breweries** unchanged at 65p, after 67p, while **Vaux** 7p to 235p, **Wolverhampton** & **Dudley** 4p to 119p and **Bass** 3p to 97p were other bright spots on the pitch.

Dunford & Elliott added 4p to 42p after news of the low acceptance of **Johnson Firth Brown's** terms with other good engineers being **Glynwed** 6p to 83p and **Metal Box** 4p to 256p.

Electricals, too, were in demand, the best proving to be **Thorn** "A" up 6p to 222p ahead

of figures, **International Computers** 7p to 160p, **BICC** 5p to 95p and **Comet Radio** 5p to 50p after the annual meeting.

Food shares continued to go ahead with **Associated Dairies** another 8p better at 200p, **Kwik Save** up 5p to 138p, **Tate & Lyle** 6p to 270p and **United Biscuits** 3p to 134p.

The oil majors could not keep up the pace of recent days and after fell 12p to 824p on **Wall Street**. In contrast, the **Lasmo-Scot** units closed another 6p to the good at 278p, a rise of 18p so far this week.

Selection Trust put on another 10p to 475p on further reflection of the good drilling results from the Teutonic Bore copper/zinc/silver prospect in Australia. The results also dragged up **Charter Consolidated**, which has 28.8 per cent of Selection, by 9p to 134p after weeks of uninspiring performance.

In the financial sector, the firmness of the gilt-edged mar-

ket helped issues like **Cater** 11p to 248p, **Gillett** 5p to 175p, **Allen** 5p to 175p, **Harvey & Ross** 20p to 370p and **Jobber Akroyd & Smithers** which ended 10p firmer at 185p.

Morgan Crucible rose 5p to 92p after figures to the market's liking.

The value of all deals in December was £10,783.67m, slightly better than the £10,605.56m recorded in November and the best figure since January of last year. Fixed-interest stocks totalled £9,681.35m, against £9,503.59m, and equities £1,102.32m, against £1,101.96m.

Equity turnover on January 5 was £57.20m (13,372 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to **Exchange Telegraph**, were **ICI**, **BAT**, **Ind**, **Lloyds**, **BP**, **Distillers**, **National Westminster**, **Shell**, **Commercial Imperial Group**, **GKN**, **Beecham**, **Siebens Oil**, **European Ferries**, **Lucas**, **Trust Houses Forte**, and **Reed Group**.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord	Year	Pay	Year	Prev
Allied Breweries (25p)	4.4	ago	1.13	ago	1.19
Anston Bldgs (25p) Ltd	0.75	18/2	—	2.18	—
Stead & Simpson (25p)	0.55	16/2	—	2.28	—
Symonds Eng (5p) Ltd	0.26	18/2	—	1.08	—
Smith Wallis Ltd	1.0	16/3	—	2.78	—
Tomkinson Bldgs (25p)	0.3	1/4	—	3.67	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in **Business News** dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

Assoc Eng paying above market price for pref

For a limited period Associated Engineering is to buy one of its classes of preference stocks through the Stock Exchange at a price "substantially" above that quoted in the market in recent weeks.

In a letter to shareholders Mr John Ferguson, chairman, said that buying started on Wednesday of the group's 4.55 per cent redeemable preference shares, of which there is £3m in issue. It is proposed to start buying at 50p a share. Final redemption of the shares on October 1, 1980, is a known commitment, and it has been fully recognized in forward financial planning.

As explained in the notes to the latest accounts, this class of preference is redeemable at the option of the company after September 30, 1970, at a premium of 71p a share, and is finally redeemable on October 1, 1980, at the same premium.

The chairman adds that the arrangements proposed are designed to help discharge this commitment. They are entirely separate from, and do not conflict with, the reasons for the recent rights issue.

The rights issue in November to raise some £3.5m was for expansion. This was in contrast to the £8m rights issue 18 months ago.

B & C Shipping gains Menteith

Bricomin Investments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **British & Commonwealth Shipping** has gained control of **Menteith Investment Trust** after a spree of buying. It already held over 17 per cent. **Menteith** was formerly **Ralli Securities Trust**.

Bricomin has now agreed to buy from **Ralli Securities**, a subsidiary of **Bowater Corporation**, its holding of 10m **Menteith** shares at 15p cash apiece, making a total of about £1.53m. **Bricomin** will then own 53.79 per cent of **Menteith**. Bargins on behalf of **Bricomin** will offer cash for the rest at the same price.

Comet even more cheerful now

If anything, the chairman of **Comet Radiovision Services**, Mr M. J. Hollingbery, was even more cheerful at the annual meeting than in his December yearly statement.

He said yesterday that business and margins had continued to go well, and he now expects profits for the six months to next February to be "materially" ahead of those made in the whole of 1974-75 when they were £2.26m.

In his annual statement the chairman simply referred to profits "in excess" of the previous record year. **Comet** is an electrical discounter and retailer.

El Rental still on set course

Dear money has not thrown **Electronic Rentals**, the TV renter, off course. A year ago Mr Maurice Fry, chairman, predicted pre-tax profits of around £10m for the year to March 31 next, but since then the cost of borrowing money has jumped.

Even so, the directors now report that, despite high interest rates in the second half-year and other things, bigger sales and new rentals should mean that profits will still be around the £10m projected.

In the six months to September 30 turnover climbed from £30.47m to £42.37m. Depreciation rose from £6.9m to nearly £9.9m but interest fell from £1.84m to £1.29m.

Spear & Jackson's contempt for Hestair's £5.75m bid

Hestair's £5.75m bid for hand tool and saw manufacturer **Spear & Jackson** is dismissed as "inadequate" and "opportunistic" by Mr S. M. de Bartolomé, Spear's chairman in a contemptuous rejection document.

Mr de Bartolomé states that Hestair has failed to offer any explanation for a drop in Hestair's net tangible assets between last January and the date of the offer document last month.

He argues that the net tangible assets for every Hestair share has been reduced by 24 per cent.

Spear does not produce any specific profit forecast, but Mr de Bartolomé reports that there has been a strong increase in orders since the end of the summer holidays. He says that "the improvement has produced substantially better profits".

Hestair's former finance director, Mr R. H. E. Nellist, has resigned his executive role at Hestair but remains on the board as a non-executive director for the time being.

would recommend a maximum dividend.

Maidenhead loss

After loan stock interest of £88,000 against £106,000, pre-tax profits of £173,000 gave way to losses of £108,000 at **Maidenhead Investments (Holdings)** in the six months to September 30.

This is the 78 per cent-controlled subsidiary of **Argyle Securities**, now recommending minority shareholders to sell their holdings to **Generale Occidentale**, Argyle's parent.

The results reflect the heavy start-up costs on new house-building sites. Turnover was £3.4m against £3.8m.

Scrip from P. J. Carroll

The Dublin-based P. J. Carroll cigarette and tobacco group—in which Rothmans has a 40 per cent stake—proposes a one-for-two scrip issue as well as a dividend of 9.19p for the 15 months to September 30, compared with 8.75p.

On a historical basis of accounting, pre-tax profits for the 15 months are £6.8m against £3.7m, on turnover of £122.4m, against £77.5m. On a current cost accounting basis, this becomes a profit of £4.14m against £2m—a 61 per cent rise on an annualized basis.

Spanish acquisition by Wheatsheaf

Wheatsheaf Distribution and Trading has established a new company in Spain, **Distribuciones Gimenez y Compania SA**, 75 per cent of which is held by its Dutch subsidiary holding company, **Wheatsheaf Holdings BV**.

In turn, **Distribuciones Gimenez** has acquired the trading assets of the business formerly carried on by **Sucesores de Gimenez y Compania SA** for a price equal to the tangible assets of **Gimenez** at December 31, 1976, plus 51m pesetas for goodwill. The net cost to the new company is expected to be about 85m pesetas (about £733,000).

The new company will operate under the name and carry and delivered trade in food and grocery products (including the VG franchise), and a small dis-

count store operation in Zaragoza and the surrounding areas in Central Spain.

The share capital contributed by **Wheatsheaf** was 100m pesetas (about £862,000) and was paid in cash raised by means of a Euroloan.

Stead and Simpson rebounds 23 pc

Better margins in footwear helped pre-tax profits of **Stead & Simpson** to rise 23.5 per cent to £959,000 in the six months to September 30.

Turnover of this footwear retailer and motor trader, including Vaux, rose 14 per cent to £8.92m, so margins were 10.7 per cent against 9.94 per cent. The dividend rises from 0.77p gross to 0.84p.

The profits were struck before adding extraordinary profits of £387,000 against £456,000, but after interest and investment income of £15,000 against £56,000.

Profits of the motor division went down 25 per cent to £105,000 and margins fell to 3.45 per cent from 5.27 per cent. But footwear profits jumped by 34.4 per cent to £854,000 with margins widening from 12.3 per cent to 14.5 per cent.

The turnover in the third quarter has continued to go ahead, with footwear trading going up 22.6 per cent and motor trading by 39.5 per cent. Over the whole of 1975-76, pre-tax profits slipped from £1.56m to £1.33m. Of those £1.08m against £1.14m came from shoe sales and £255,000 against £211,000 from motors.

Target-Coyne

Target Trust Managers has taken over the management of the **Coyne Growth Fund** and intends to merge the fund with one of its own unit trusts as soon as possible.

Had Target not assumed the management, effective from the beginning of this year, then it is likely that the **Coyne Fund** would have been terminated and its portfolio liquidated.

There are 180 unitholders in the fund, valued at approximately £95,000.

Texas-Dow in oil and gas deal

Texas Oil & Gas has bought **Dow Chemical's** interest in 151 gas and oil wells and about 25,000 undeveloped leasehold acres for \$15.25m.

At present **Texas Oil** is the operator for 146 of the wells drilled under a joint agreement with **Dow** in 1971. **Dow's** working interest in the wells is about 25 per cent.

They are in **Texas** Oil's operating sectors of **Texas**, **Oklahoma** and **Kansas**. The reserves of 75 of these wells are bound up in **Texas Oil's** gas gathering systems. About 57,000 of the undeveloped acres are in **Colorado** and the remaining 8,000 are in **Texas** and **Oklahoma**.

Mr William Hutchinson, chief executive of **Texas Oil**, said that since **Texas Oil** already ran nearly all of the producing properties no new staff or overheads would be required. The two groups are to plan to continue cooperating in the exploration and development of oil and gas reserves.—AP-DJ.

common share for every share in **Koehring**.

Preferred shareholders of **Koehring** would exchange their series "G", "H" and "I" convertible preferred for a new issue of **Fruehauf** convertible preferred.

The completion of the acquisition depends on further review of the operations of the two groups, and approval of a definitive agreement by directors and shareholders.—AP-DJ.

Overseas

Sanko DM100m bond

Sanko Steamship plans to issue a **DM100m** bond on the German capital market, the group said in Tokyo. It is still negotiating the terms with the syndicate managed by **BHF Bank**. But there was no comment on reports in Europe that the bond will be for seven years bearing a 7 1/2 per cent coupon.—Reuter.

Kaufhof sales up

Germany's second biggest department store chain, **Kaufhof AG**, reports 1976 sales up 3.7 per cent to **DM6,930m**. Some **DM5,390m** of the total sales

were accounted for by the parent company, **Kaufhof GmbH**, a store-chain subsidiary, raised sales 2 per cent to **DM1,340m**. But the travel agency offshoot reported revenues down 2 per cent to **DM197m**. Net profits in 1976 were a record **DM950m**.—Reuter.

Ahold goes well

Earnings of Dutch supermarket group **Ahold NV** last year rose "well above" 1975's **18.8m** florins the group said in **Zandam**. Sales rose 15 per cent to 3,300m florins.

The supermarket division and other retail outlets went well and further expansion is planned, said Mr Albert Heijn, chairman. Lower prices will be announced for a number of products in the next few weeks to enable **Ahold** to keep its share of a market expected to grow more slowly.—Reuter.

Juvena (GB) to close

Juvena (Great Britain), a subsidiary of **Juvena AG** of Switzerland, is to stop trading. It blames poor UK prospects. The slump in sterling against the Swiss franc means that the British company could not survive on imports raised from the market cannot be forthcoming from Zurich.

leading, factoring and discounting services.

HERON-INGERSOLL

Heron Corp said that its 40p cash offer to reach outstanding 25p ordinary share in **Ingersoll Group** is now unconditional. Acceptances received for 57.52 per cent of shares under offer, bringing **Heron's** stake to 88.08 per cent.

C.I. COMPANIES

The number of companies registered in the Channel Islands grew last year from 14,742 to 17,006. There were 1,337 new formations in Jersey, bringing the total there to 12,267, while Guernsey's total rose by 714 to 1,472. Alderney registered companies increased by 15 to 292.

SCOTT LITHGOW

Reflecting its increasing offshore oil activities the **Scott Lithgow** group is to form a new company—**Scott Lithgow (Offshore)**. It will coordinate the group's offshore oil-related interests.

DCE VOKES INC

A new company, **DCE Vokes Inc**, based in Jeffersonville, Kentucky, formed by **DCE Vokes Group**, 10 market British-made dust control equipment to processing industries in the United States. The company plans to achieve sales of over \$10m before 1980.

WINTERBOTTOM TRUST

Net revenue before tax for year to November 30 up from £24,000 to £350,000. Payment raised from 5.26p to 5.77p gross. Asset value increased after deducting prior charges at par, 215p (202.3p).

CCH INVESTMENTS

The chairman of **CCH Investments**, Mr Gordon A. S. Currie, and associates have acquired a further 171,000 ordinary shares in the company. They now own 573,000 shares, amounting to 10.1 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital.

DEUNDI HOLDINGS

Mr G. W. Deundi and his family, with co in which he has substantial interests, now hold 101,900 shares (19.6 per cent).

H. MILLER

Sales of **H. Miller Investments** rose from £1.63m to £1.12m in half-year to June 30, but pre-tax loss £11,107, (profit £631). No interim payment (same). Break-even point was reached towards end of half-year, but dividend unlikely.

SMITH WALLIS

Pre-tax profits for half-year to Sept 30 down from £141,000 to £53,000. Interim payment 1.54p gross again.

MERCANTILE INVEST TRUST

Repayment made on Dec 30 of the \$4.8m loan of the £2m reciprocal loan, both previously due on Jan 31, 1977.

MERGERS CLEARED

Following mergers are not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission: **Booker-McConnell-Kinloch (Provision Merchants)**; **Boogers**; **Immunid BV-Baxter Fell**; **Trafalgar House Investments-Direct Spanish Telephone**.

WINN-MANN

Winn Industries has bought a further 20,000 ord in **Mann and Overton**, bringing holding to 596,000 shares (22.07 per cent).

ARIEL INDUSTRIES

Ariel Industries reports that 67 per cent of issued capital now owned by five participants and associates. Co is, therefore, "close" company.

BRIT INDIAN-JOBRAULT

British Indian Tea (Holdings) now holds 45,754 ordinary shares in **British Indian Tea (Holdings)**, (26.87 per cent).

SIMON ENGINEERING

Simon Engineering Dudley has

formed a manufacturing and sales subsidiary at Cergy, near Paris, to handle business in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the French-speaking countries of North Africa.

WHITBREAD-LONG JOHN

Now that **Long John** is a subsidiary of **Whitbread**, **Long John** debenture holders are offered **Whitbread** stock in exchange for their own.

JAMES NORTH

Board has bought for redemption, £175,000 of 7 1/2 per cent loan stock 1987-92 leaving £720,000 in issue.

WHESKO

Lord Erroll of Hale, chairman, says that prospects overseas are good. Pre-tax profits this year should be as good as the £2.8m record for year to September 25.

FENNER STARTS WELL

Annual meeting of **J. H. Fenner** told that turnover of United Kingdom companies for first quarter of 1976-77 ahead of same period in volume and value. Profit "moderately" up in face of increasing price competition in export business.

ST-2000 EUROLOAN

Group of major banks are presenting to Venezuela terms for a \$1,200m Euroloan, one of the largest single loans ever arranged on Eurodollar markets. It is expected to have seven-year maturity but the interest rate has not yet been set.

BARCLAYS BANK

Barclays Mercantile Industrial Finance has been formed by **Barclays** to develop the group's

sell and sell fast, put it in **The Times Classified Pages**. For only £2.00 per line (and there are discounts, too). The more you think about it, the more you need **The Times**.

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ALLIED BREWERIES LIMITED

Preliminary Announcement of Annual Results

The Directors of **Allied Breweries Limited** announce the results for the 52 weeks ended 25th September 1976 and these, with the results for the previous year, adjusted to take account of changes in accounting policies, are shown below.

The Directors intend to recommend a final dividend in respect of the financial year ended 25th September 1976 of 2.4046p per ordinary share making with the interim dividend of 1.1165p already paid a total of 3.5211p per share. These dividends together with the associated tax credits are equivalent to a gross of 5.417p (last year 4.925p) which is an increase of 10%, on the previous year. Subject to confirmation at the annual general meeting the final dividend will be paid on the 1st March 1977, to shareholders on the register at the close of business on the 28th January 1977.

Group Profit for the 52 weeks ended 25th September 1976

	1975/76 £m	1974/75 £m		1975/76 £m	1974/75 £m
Turnover (exclusive of VAT)	885.3	737.0	Gains and losses arising other than from trading		
Trading surplus before depreciation	90.4	86.7	Surplus on disposal of properties (including surplus on revaluation now realised) ..	2.5	3.2
Depreciation	19.7	17.3	Surplus on redemption of debentures	0.8	1.4
Trading profit	70.7	69.4	Goodwill on acquisitions and capital tax on new shares of an overseas subsidiary written off	(0.3)	(0.7)
Investment income	4.0	3.9		3.0	3.9
Associated companies	2.0	1.1			
	76.7	74.4			
Finance charges	13.7	14.2			
Profit before tax	63.0	60.2	Balance Sheet as at 25th September 1976		
Tax on above profit	31.1	29.9	Fixed assets	454.6	431.5
	31.9	30.3	Investments and loans	45.8	39.9
Minority interests	0.6	0.6	Net current assets other than cash	89.1	92.4
Preference dividends	0.4	0.4		589.5	563.8
Earned for ordinary shares from operations for the year	30.9	29.3	Net cash overdrawn	4.1	18.0
Foreign currency losses	(0.9)	(1.7)		585.4	545.8
Gains and losses arising other than from trading (less tax)	3.0	3.9			
Available for ordinary dividend	33.0	31.5	Preference share capital	9.0	9.0
Ordinary dividends			Ordinary share capital and reserves	316.3	299.1
Interim	5.4	4.9	Loan capital	171.3	143.1
Recommended final	11.6	10.6	Provision, deferred tax and minorities	108.8	94.6
	17.0	15.5		585.4	545.8
Profit retained transferred to revenue reserve	16.0	16.0			
	33.0	31.5	Increase in net equity		
Earnings per share from operations for the year	6.40p	6.11p	Balance 27th September 1975	299.1	
			Retained profit	16.0	
			Exchange adjustments	1.8	
			Revaluation surplus on property disposals included in retained profit	(0.6)	
			Balance 25th September 1976	316.3	

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 4. Dealings End, Jan 14. § Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 25.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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